

**Jane Noble**  
Officer to the Forum  
Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex  
(01243) 756863 (Tel)  
(01243) 777232 (Fax)  
jane.noble@westsussex.gov.uk  
www.westsussex.gov.uk/cafws

**Countryside  
Access Forum  
for  
West Sussex**

The Grange  
Tower Street  
Chichester  
West Sussex  
PO19 1RH  
(01243) 777100

---

Our reference: JN/2009.03

Hilary Conlon  
Planning Department  
Horsham District Council  
Park North  
Horsham  
West Sussex RH12 1RL

6<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Dear Ms Conlon

**Planning Applications DC/08/2446 and DC/08/2447 – Land South of Horsham, Broadbridge Heath**

I am responding to the above consultations on behalf of Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex (CAFWS).

CAFWS is an **independent statutory advisory body** established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to give advice on countryside access matters. It has a balanced membership of knowledgeable and experienced users (walkers, cyclists, horse riders and carriage drivers), landowners and other interests (including conservation, disabled access, landscape).

**This letter constitutes formal advice from the Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex. Horsham District Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.**

I am aware the closing dates for responses to the above consultations have passed but Tricia Butcher, CAFWS member, has informed me that she has spoken to you and that you have told her that you are still willing to consider responses, therefore CAFWS would be grateful if you would consider its views outlined below when considering the applications.

For both applications CAFWS considers that **provision of a grade separated crossing of the proposed east-west link road is essential to enable users of the bridleway BW 1630 (a Public Right of Way), which runs along Mill Lane, to gain safe access across the road and out to the wider countryside.** This route currently provides an important strategic link for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, both for utility and recreational use, and usage is likely to increase significantly once the development is complete.

Safety for all users must be a top priority and therefore it is essential that the Mill Lane bridleway is protected and is kept as a traffic-free rural path for all to enjoy in safety.

In addition where Footpath FP 1632 crosses the proposed road a grade separated crossing is desirous, as is upgrade of the path's status to bridleway. A linking route

for non motorised users (NMUs) between bridleway BW1630 and Old Wickhurst Lane, away from the new road, preferably as part of a 'green corridor', must be provided.

Provision of a good network of safe routes for NMUs must remain high on the agenda and is supported by policy C4 of the South East Plan:

***South East Plan - Policy C4; Countryside Access and Rights of Way Management.***

*Local authorities, through Rights of Way Improvement Plans and other measures, should encourage access to the countryside, taking full advantage of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, particularly by:*

- i) Maintaining, enhancing and promoting the Public Rights of Way system, and permissive and longer distance routes, to facilitate access within, to and from the countryside for visitors and all members of the local community*
- ii) Identifying opportunities and planning for routes within and between settlements, seeking to reduce car use for shorter journeys*
- iii) Where possible, making new routes multi-functional to allow pedestrians, horses and cyclists to use them.*

CAFWS has previously made related comments in its response, dated 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008, to the consultation on The West of Horsham Design Principles and Character Areas Draft Supplementary Planning Document.

The Forum hopes these comments are helpful and looks forward to being involved at all stages of this and future consultations.

Yours faithfully



Jane Noble

Forum Officer, Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex

<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/cafws>

Copy for information to:

Peter Brown – Chairman, CAFWS  
Glynn Jones – Vice-Chairman, CAFWS  
All members of CAFWS  
Craig Bowdery – Secretary to the Forum  
Christine Luff – WSCC Right of Way Team  
Leader

Lisa Creaye-Griffin – WSCC Rural Operations Group  
Manager  
Deborah Urquhart – WSCC Cabinet Member for  
Environment & Economy  
Jon Perks – WSCC Principal Rights of Way Officer