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**Countryside  
Access Forum  
for  
West Sussex**

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Our reference: JN/2010

Jo Hawkins  
Community Relations Advisor  
Crest Strategic Projects  
Crest House  
Pycroft Road  
Chertsey  
Surrey KT16 9GN

31<sup>st</sup> May 2010

(Sent by e-mail to hawkinsjo@blueyonder.co.uk on 31st May 2010)

Dear Jo Hawkins,

**Consultation Response; Kilnwood Vale Development (formerly known as West of Bewbush) following Crest Nicholson Exhibition, 14 May 2010**

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

**About CAFWS**

CAFWS, a Local Access Forum, is an **independent statutory advisory body** established under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) 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). More information about the Forum and its work can be found at [www.westsussex.gov.uk/cafws](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/cafws).

**This letter constitutes formal advice from the Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex. Horsham / Crawley District Councils are 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.**

CAFWS has been following this development of proposals in the West of Bewbush area with much interest for some time and has been keen to offer advice to those involved to ensure the best possible outcome is achieved for non motorised users (NMUs) for travel to, within and beyond the new development, and indeed has already made comments at various stages in the process to date.

**Comments**

On the whole CAFWS welcomes that there seems plenty of footpaths and cycleways, although it is a shame there is not more off-road provision for equestrians and that the circular, informal recreation path around the edge of the development area has now disappeared. This makes it especially important that the link to the bridleway in the north west corner of the site, is usable by all NMUs as shown in the Masterplan (EIP), and be of adequate width to comfortably accommodate all users (3-4m).

Crossing of the road and railway remain a concern, and now that the western bridge for NMUs is not to be provided it is vital that the second bridge is designed and built to ensure the safety of these vulnerable users (including equestrians).

Members attending the exhibition were pleased that it is planned to provide a signalised crossing of the A264 as per the Masterplan (EIP) as this would be widely welcomed and used. CAFWS would encourage you to continue to work closely with both Highway and Rights of Way Officers from West Sussex County Council to ensure a workable solution can be reached to enable safe and convenient crossing.

The Forum is also pleased that there is to be a bridge crossing of the railway, to include provision for NMUs, as an alternative to the level crossing, with associated links to the bridleway.

Wherever possible routes for NMUs should be set away from live roads, however if in the worst case this is not possible a suitable barrier, such as hedge/fence, should separate the road from the off-road routes. This is particularly important where equestrians may use the route. Continue to work closely with WSCC Highways and Rights of Way Officers to ensure a workable solution can be reached to enable safe and convenient crossing Refuges and lighted crossing one side of access road

The Forum supports the further detail as submitted by the BHS (Mrs Tricia Butcher) and Crawley CTC.

Although CAFWS has chosen not to respond using the standard questionnaire with reference to question 2 can I please ask that in the future you remember all non motorised users and would therefore suggest you widen the reference to footpaths to off-road routes, or footpaths and bridleways/cycle ways or similar.

CAFWS thanks you for giving it the opportunity to comment at this stage and looks forward to seeing, and commenting on, detailed plans.

Yours sincerely



Jane Noble  
Forum Officer, Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex  
<http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/cafws>

Copy for information to:

Hilary Copleston – Horsham District Council  
Steve Dennington – Crawley Borough Council  
Nick Scott – WSCC, Access Ranger  
Paul Addison – WSCC, Development Plans  
Peter Brown – Chairman, CAFWS  
Glynn Jones – Vice-Chairman, CAFWS  
All members of CAFWS

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