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**Countryside  
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**Outdoors for All?: Draft Diversity Action Plan**

Please find below the response from The Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex to the above consultation.

Due to the timing of the consultation this response has not been approved by the Forum however it is a combination of individual members' comments that have been approved by the Forum Chairman. The response is in the form of a comments log with comments referenced to the relevant paragraph/pages of the consultation document.

I would like to bring to particular attention comments on question Q12 & 13. The Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex (and possibly it's four sub-fora which support it by providing knowledge and expertise on local issues) is in a good position to debate and advise on delivery. However it has no budget and it's members are volunteers, often already busy working for the interest groups they represent.

The Access Forum has had a strong involvement in the preparation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for West Sussex. During this process the Forum has identified access for all as an important theme in particular for those with mobility difficulties. The availability of relevant and appropriate information is seen as the key so people are able to make choices for themselves of where and how they can access the countryside.

The Forum is supportive of giving young people opportunities to enjoy the countryside. Educating users, particularly young people, in how to behave in a courteous and responsible manner is something the Forum feels is needed if the countryside is to remain an enjoyable place to visit.

Your target groups of ethnic minorities and people from inner cities are possibly less of a concern in West Sussex. Although ethnic minorities make up only a small percentage, research is required into where and how ethnic minorities access the countryside in West Sussex. As a county it would be fair to say there are no inner city areas, however there are areas of deprivation.

Thank you for taking time to consider this response. We look forward to seeing the Diversity Action Plan when it is published.

Yours sincerely

Fiona MacLeod  
Secretary to the Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex