

Secretary to the Forum

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If calling ask for

Our reference

Your reference

Fiona MacLeod

CL/RB952

1st August 2007

Dear Christine,

Cocking, Graffham and Heyshott: Restricted Byway 952 Proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) - Consultation

I refer to your letter dated 15th June and the subsequent balanced and informed debate at the Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex (CAFWS) meeting that you attended on the 18th July 2007.

Members were updated that the responses to date had been in favour of extending the TRO with only 1 objection being received. In addition, they were advised that a gate and key system would be introduced, with horse access accommodated by a horse stile, if the application was successful. Cowdray Estate had offered to provide a permissive route nearby for carriage drivers if the TRO excludes them from restricted byway 952.

Several members commented that they had not seen motorbikes on this route. The Forum felt it would have been useful to know the number of motorbikes using the route as reported through the Pathwatch Scheme and noted that at a recent Pathwatch meeting PC Mark Hillman advised that reports of motor vehicles using this route were down 50 –75%.

However, if they are causing a problem, perhaps increased policing would be a more appropriate solution rather than excluding carriage drivers in an attempt to exclude motorbikes. It was felt that the horse stiles would not stop motorbikes from accessing the route. As well as excluding carriage drivers, they would effectively exclude wheelchair and other disabled users from using the path, part of which is a section of the South Downs Way, the entirety of which can currently be completed by people using tramper style wheelchairs.

In addition there are many other feeder routes (restricted byways, bridleways and footpaths) onto the path in question and it was felt a TRO on this section would not be sufficient to prevent access by motorbikes to this area.

In light of members' comments and majority agreement, please will you incorporate the following into the report to be taken to the North Chichester County Local Committee (CLC) meeting on 11th September:

'CAFWS do not support the recommendation to make the above TRO and would encourage the lobbying of local County Councillors to this effect'.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona MacLeod
Secretary,
Countryside Access Forum for West Sussex

CC
Lt. Col. Tex Pemberton – WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport
Cllr Nola Hendon – Midhurst Division
Cllr Chris Duncton – Petworth Division