



Arundel Town Council
Town Hall
Maltravers Street
Arundel
West Sussex
BN18 9AP

1st October 2021

Cllr. Shaun Gunner
Leader
Arun District Council

Dear Shaun,

The Arundel Community, as represented by its Town Council and its two Primary Schools, thanks you for accepting this petition requesting that a safe cycle path and footpath be provided between Arundel and Ford, and asks that Arun District Council responds to the petition by:

1. Passing a motion of support for the petition
2. Communicating that support to the Steering group which is working on the development of the business case to be submitted to National Highways. This steering group has representatives from National Highways, West Sussex County Council, Arundel Town Council and is attended by Kevin Owen (ADC Planning Policy Team Leader).

The report "*Arundel to Ford Station Cycle and Walking Route: Making Cycling and Walking Safer*" was published in February 2021. It was sent to the leaders of Arun District Council and West Sussex County Council with a letter asking for their support for the project. This letter was signed by 56 community leaders, including the Duke of Norfolk, our MP Andrew Griffith, our Town, District and County Councillors, both Arundel headteachers and the clergy of all three Arundel churches. Never has quite such a broad and representative group of Arundel leaders supported a request.

Since then, and despite all the obstacles caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the campaign has steadily gained momentum. Over 1,500 people have signed the petition asking for a safe cycling and walking pathway to Ford. ADC's Active Travel Plan has identified the pathway as a priority for the district. The Chief Executive of the South Downs National Park Authority has observed:

"The [South Downs Partnership Management Plan 2020-2025](#) has a specific priority, the objective to improve accessibility through a network of high quality routes connecting communities with the landscape, heritage, attractions and transport hubs and gateways. The Arundel-Ford path would fit this objective perfectly and as such I am happy to lend the support of the SDNPA to this project. I would also add that creation of more infrastructure for cycling and walking must be an essential part of all our work in tackling climate change and addressing health and well-being challenges in our communities"

Many local councils have expressed support for the scheme (please see the list enclosed), noting both the environmental and safety benefits that would result. To give you a sense of the enthusiasm, Littlehampton Town Council described it as *“long overdue.”* The Mayor of Bognor Regis Town Council expressed his belief that *“it will be of great benefit in creating a connecting link between Arundel and Bognor Regis, as well as encouraging more environmentally friendly modes of travel between our two Towns.”* Rustington Parish Council believes that *“the scheme proposed will greatly improve safety”*. East Preston Parish Council noted that *“To be able (to walk or cycle from Ford to Arundel) more safely will likely only encourage more East Preston residents to visit Arundel by public transport.”* Slindon Parish Council commented: *“There cannot be a scheme that ticks as many boxes as this one... the road is very dangerous for walkers... most significantly, without a Secondary School in Arundel, schoolchildren need to access Ford Station. They are undoubtedly the ones most at risk in this situation. This really cannot be ignored. The pathway is badly needed.”*

It is not often that objectives relating to safety, the environment/climate change and fitness and health can all be so well achieved by a single project, and therefore Arundel asks Arun District Council to support the Arundel-Ford Station pathway.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Hunt
Mayor of Arundel

Enclosures

1. The Petition
2. The Original letter to the leaders of Arun District Council and West Sussex County Councils dated 5th February 2021 with 56 signatories
3. The Petition Signatories
4. The Report: *“Arundel to Ford Station Cycle and Walking Route: Making Cycling and Walking Safer”*, published by Arundel Town Council cycling and walking working group, February 2021.