

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF FULL COUNCIL ON 26 JANUARY 2022

SUBJECT: Make Ford Road Safe Petition

REPORT AUTHOR: Karl Roberts (Director of Place)
DATE: 22 December 2021
EXTN: 01903 737760
AREA: Place

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Council has received a petition of over 1500 verified signatures seeking this Council's support for requesting that a safe cycle path and footpath be provided between Arundel and Ford and should this Council support this ambition that any resolution to that effect be communicated to the Steering Group promoting the provision of this piece of infrastructure. The recommendation of this report is that the ambition of the petition be supported by this Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Council is recommended to support the ambition of the local community to secure a safe cycle path and footpath between Arundel and Ford.

1. BACKGROUND:

A letter accompanying the Petition explains the background. A report "Arundel to Ford Station Cycle and Walking Route: Making Cycling and Walking Safer" was published in February 2021 by the local community. 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.

At both national and regional level there is an increased emphasis on creating safe cycling and walking routes, particularly where they link key places or facilities or amenities. For example, the National Planning Policy Framework, the National Design Guide and the Council's own Local Plan and Arun Design Guide.

In this case a safe route linking the town of Arundel with as a minimum Ford Railway Station would assist those who wanted to travel this route in a safe manner by non-motorised means. In particular, school children going to local secondary schools by train.

As the accompanying letter points out Arun's own Active Travel Plan has identified the pathway as a priority for the District. Furthermore, the same covering letter goes onto advise that 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"

The accompanying letter also highlights the support offered by other local Parish and Town Councils, many of whom identify the same safety concerns.

2. PROPOSAL(S): It is recommended that this Council support the ambition of creating a safe cycleway and walking route between the town of Arundel.

3. OPTIONS: Council could decide not to agree with the Officer's recommendation or proposed amendments.

4. CONSULTATION:

Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		X
Relevant District Ward Councillors		X
Other groups/persons (please specify)		X
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		X
Legal		X
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		X
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		X
Sustainability	X	
Asset Management/Property/Land		X
Technology		X
Other (please explain)		X

6. IMPLICATIONS: There are not any implications directly relating to this recommendation which would impact upon the above matters other than the creation of a cycleway would encourage non-motorised travel movements.

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION: To encourage people to move safely between Arundel and Ford in a safe matter.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Correspondence from Arundel Town Council in submitting the Petition to the Council.