

West Sussex Local Access Forum

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Sent by email to: planninginfo@midsussex.gov.uk

5.6.24

Dear Sirs

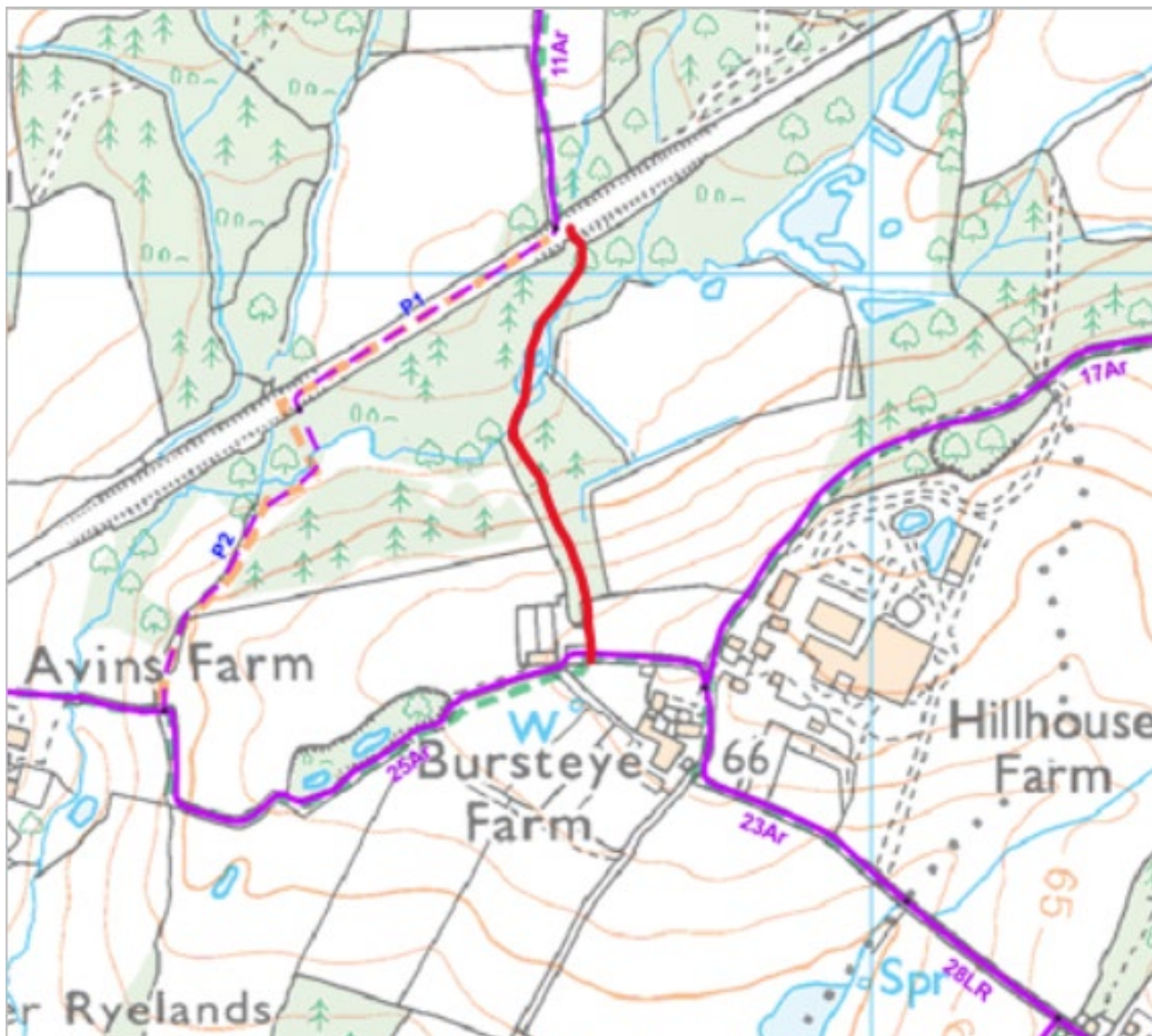
Re: DM/22/3806 – Reinstatement and Re-opening of the former Horsted Keynes to Haywards Heath branch line, connecting to the existing freight line at Ardingly – Bluebell Railway (Amended Plan and additional ecology and highway information received 17th May)

I am responding to the above consultations on behalf of West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF).

West Sussex Local Access Forum (WSLAF) is an independent advisory body, established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to give access advice to local authorities, statutory organisations and non-government organisations. In giving that advice, the Forum's main objective is to ensure the existing network of public rights of way (prows), as well as the wider access network, is protected and where possible enhanced. The Forum 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). For further information about the Forum please visit www.wslaf.org.

WSLAF commented on the above application in January 2023. Having reviewed the amended information submitted by the applicant since that date, the Forum notes that the concerns raised in that response are still valid and therefore wish to confirm their HOLDING OBJECTION to these proposals, pending receipt of further detailed information from the applicant particularly in relation to how connectivity of the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network will be protected.

The Forum understands that a Planning Appeal is currently in progress relating to a DMMO application concerning an historic route from the southern end of Footpath 11Ar, connecting to Footpath 25Ar at Stone Barn cottages (approximately the route indicated in red on the map overleaf).



Mapping reproduced from or based upon Ordnance Survey material, WSCC licence AC0000849983

Details can be found on WSCC's [website](#).

Until the outcome of the appeal is known and, in the absence of any clear proposals from the applicant relating to their intentions to provide any alternative route to the Permissive Path P1, the Forum remains very concerned about the potential loss of the existing access route.

Members are keen to ensure that the Planning Authority seeks to secure a new PRoW linking 11Ar and 23Ar as part of the proposals before any application is approved.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the West Sussex Local Access Forum. Mid Sussex District Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this Local Access Forum in carrying out its functions.

Members will be grateful if you would update them with any future amendments to the scheme and provide them with an opportunity to comment further should any additional relevant information be provided by the applicant.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jane Noble, Forum Officer
West Sussex Local Access Forum

Copy for information to: All WSLAF members