

## ARUNDEL TOWN COUNCIL

Recommendation to the Council Meeting to take place on November 12th, 2020

### PART A : Recommendation

#### Arundel-Ford Cycle Path and Footpath

**From:** Mayor, on behalf of the Walking & Cycling working group

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

**Relevant Council Objectives:**

*Traffic and Transport: Make it easier for Arundel residents to get around*

-explore with the relevant authorities the possibility of creating a lit, cycle path/footpath between Ford Station and Arundel.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Walking & Cycling working group propose to employ a consultant to do some work on the Ford-Arundel pathway project, at a cost estimated to be between £2,000-£2,500.

**BACKGROUND:**

In the Mayor's Diary for 23<sup>rd</sup> September I reported on a meeting with Andrew Griffith MP. Amongst other things we discussed Arundel residents' long-standing and deeply-held wish to have a safe cycle path and footpath between the town and Ford Station. Previous approaches to both WSCC and Highways England had been rebuffed (most recently on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020). Andrew Griffith's view was that the approach which we had taken in the past which was to ask for this pathway in general terms was unlikely to succeed. Instead he suggested that we produced a detailed report and proposal for this project, similar to the one which he and Michelle Taylor, his Senior Research Assistant, had produced for the Arundel Chord. He would help us to refine this into a document that he would be able to support with various statutory authorities.

As a member of the Walking & Cycling working group, former Arundel Town Councillor and Mayor, James Stewart, has produced an initial draft of this document. In this draft he has related the Ford-Arundel pathway to other sources including the Government moves to promote cycling, West Sussex County Council Cycling Strategy 2016-26, the Arun District Council and South Downs National Parks Association Local Plan, and the Arundel Neighbourhood Plan. Ownership of the land bordering the Ford Road has been mapped. This document is now being worked on by the Walking and Cycling working party, but is the most detailed dossier yet produced on this objective.

At the working group meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 it was proposed that to give some more technical robustness to the document it would be valuable to get a transport consultant specialising

in cycling and walking infrastructure, probably a specialised highways engineer/designer, to produce an initial short report on the road with annotated drawings and design references. The estimated cost of this is £2-2.5k, and in line with council policy the working group would seek three estimates. The working group may also consult Sustrans, the charity, who are the custodians of the National Cycling Network.

The downside of this expenditure is that there is no certainty that, even with Andrew Griffith's support, the proposal will ever be agreed. However with the increase in housing on Ford Road and in Ford itself anticipated in the Arun local plan and Arundel Neighbourhood plan, the justification for this expenditure is increasing.

**Proposal:**

To provide the Walking & Cycling working group with up to £2,500 to have a professional report done on the Arundel-Ford pathway to make the final proposal for the project more robust.

The Town Clerk confirms that there are unutilised funds in the 2020/21 project budgets (Planning, Traffic Committee) from which this amount would be available.

**Option:**

Not to do this work.