

CYCLING & WALKING WORKING GROUP

Arundel-Ford Pathway Update

1. Support for the Pathway

The Leader of West Sussex County Council, the Leader and the Chief Executive of Arun District Council and the Chief Executive of the South Downs National Park have all expressed their support for the project.

Following the receipt of the letter from Arundel, Paul Marshall, leader of WSCC has written to the Executive Director of Major Projects at Highways England encouraging Highways England to revisit the 156-page feasibility report on the pathway that they published in 2020, and to consider the pathway in the context of the A27 Bypass project or another scheme. Andrew Griffith MP has written to Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, seeking his support, and to Peter Phillips, Route Manager South Coast Central, seeking a meeting.

2. Co-ordination Meetings

Co-ordination meetings are taking place fortnightly with Andrew Griffith to ensure that our activity is aligned.

3. Community Activity

- Logo and design: Paul Buckle at ROC Design has produced graphic design work for the campaign (samples will be sent out before the Council Meeting).
- Media and PR: in February the campaign was featured on BBC South and in the local press. The Bell includes a double page spread. The challenge will be to generate a succession of stories for the media.
- Petition: By the 2nd March, the petition had received 964 signatures. On 12th March it is planned to do a letterbox delivery of a leaflet incorporating the petition in Arundel and in part of Ford, inviting people to either sign-up on-line or to return hard copy petitions through the letterboxes of the Town Hall, the Scout Hut or (in Ford) to Edgcumbes (we are avoiding shop collections because of the Covid situation). The two Arundel Primary schools have circulated information on the petition to parents, and we are encouraging other signatories to mobilise their groups where this is appropriate.

- Window posters: with the petition A4 window posters will be delivered to residents. An economical source of supply is being sought for car stickers.
- Localism: We are being encouraged by West Sussex County Council and by Andrew Griffith to keep the local support for the project very visible.

4. Budget & Expenditure

The budget processes have been agreed and will be reported in the April 2021 Council Meeting.

5. Next Stage

Together with Andrew Griffith MP, Andy Batty and the Mayor Tony Hunt will be meeting (remotely) with Highways England on 18th March.