

ARUNDEL-FORD PATHWAY WORKING GROUP:

UPDATE FOR ARUNDEL TOWN COUNCIL, JUNE 2021

1. Steering Group: The steering group has been established which includes officers from WSCC, ADC, Highways England, with Andy Batty and Tony Hunt.
2. Task: The key task is to prepare a revised Business Case that will improve the justification for the Arundel-Ford pathway and enable the project to secure Designated Funds for pathway design in 2022/23 from Highways England. This needs to be completed by end-2021 latest.
3. Consultancy: HE has found some funds which can be used to revise the original 2019 feasibility and business case report. These funds will be used to engage WSP, the consultancy which carried out the previous study for WSCC in 2019, to revisit the project.
4. Business Case: The key elements to be improved in the pathway business case are:
 - Demonstration of local support, not only in Arundel but in the Littlehampton and Bognor Regis (NB. Littlehampton Council have declared their support for the pathway which they regard as “long overdue”).
 - Evidence of support from WSCC, ADC, SDNP, Arundel Town Council, Network Rail (e.g. improved storage for bikes).
 - More evidence on current usage and on the likelihood of increased future use
 - The nature of the route
 - Sources of Finance
5. National Policy Context
 - Since the 2019 project, national policy has changed and the £2bn provided for walking and cycling routes shows demonstrates government ambition to encourage walking and cycling and reduce short car trips. “Soft” factors such as physical activity, weight, health, and reducing NHS costs have become relevant factors.
6. Next Stages
 - Some ACE pupils will be doing questionnaire research at Ford Station.
 - Brief for WSP to be defined (WSCC/HE-led task)
 - ATC will write to those local councils who did not sign the original petition inviting their support for the pathway.
 - Continue to grow the petition.
 - Cllr. Joy Dennis, WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport will visit Arundel on 6th July.
 - Next Steering group meeting, 23rd July 2021

Tony Hunt

30th June 2021