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10th January 2019

Mr Stephen Hoyle
Clerk to Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common
Parish Council
Trinity Road
Hurstpierpoint BN6 9UY

by email

Dear Stephen,

Ref: A2300 Improvements Scheme

Thank you for attending the A2300 public engagement event in the autumn and subsequent feedback.

We have reviewed the feedback received from the public engagement exercise and are grateful for the support of Hurstpierpoint and Sayer Commons Parish Council for the above scheme.

Below is our response to the comments made by the Parish Council:

Comment 1 – it is recognised that the proposed scheme will result in some severance of local routes, although these are not designated routes e.g. Public Rights of Way. The County Council is looking to provide a footway/cycleway along the southern verge of the road, with uncontrolled crossings across the A2300 either side of the A23/A2300 Services (eastern) roundabout and Cuckfield Road roundabout. There is also a separate scheme which looks to enhance the walking, cycling and horse riding provision throughout the area between Burgess Hill and the A23.

Comment 2 – the County Council is currently looking at minor traffic management schemes at Stairbridge Lane/Bolney Grange Business Park junction, and outside of the Sportsman Public House on Cuckfield Road to help reduce or discourage the likelihood of rat-runs using Stairbridge Lane to the north or Cuckfield Road to the south of the A2300.

Comment 3 – the planning department at the County Council has examined and concluded that the proposed scheme would not require an Environmental Impact Assessment and could be progressed under its rights for permitted development. The determination was made on the basis that the potential 'likely significant environmental effects' identified in Screening Opinion Report prepared by our consultant WSP would be assessed and 'designed out' at the design phase ('embedded mitigation') or otherwise mitigated at the construction phase ('additional mitigation'). The County Council has decided to act upon WSP's recommendation by preparing an Environmental Design Mitigation Report (EDMR). The EDMR includes a series of specialist technical assessments for the topics identified in Volume 11 of the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) which is best practice for the environmental assessment of highways developments.

Although the EDMR is not a statutory requirement in itself it will identify and ensure that the design complies with the relevant environmental legislation, guidance and best practice including that in the DMRB. The mitigation measures proposed in the EDMR will be reviewed by the relevant environmental officers within the County Council.

The specialist technical assessments will also identify where additional mitigation is needed at the construction phase and this will inform the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HCH', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hiong Ching Hii
Project Manager, Major Projects