For the attention of: Daphney Haywood
Planning reference: APP/18/00672
Site Location: Land off Westwood Close, Emsworth
Proposal: Erection of 46 no. dwellings with associated parking, access from Westwood Close, diversion of Havant Footpath 73, landscaping and surface water drainage. Felling and works to trees within Area A1, subject to TPO 2071

Thank you for sending us this consultation, please accept this comment as being that of the Countryside Service, in relation to this application we are responding as Highway Authority in respect of Public Rights of Way.

Site context

Havant Footpath 73 runs through the proposed development site. The route also forms part of the Sussex Border Path, which is a long-distance promoted trail, administered by West Sussex County Council.

Comment

The proposals include the diversion of Havant Footpath 73. The proposed diverted route is not as convenient for users of the route and due to the proximity of the development the likely increase in footfall on the route is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the public amenity value of the route.

This proposal would require the diversion of Footpath 73 into Flood Zone 3. In addition, the length of the path would be slightly increased and additional footfall would be generated upon the route. We have met with the agents on-site to discuss this proposal, and have agreed a mitigation contribution from this development which would deal with any drainage issues and enhance the surface of the proposed route.

The proposal also includes vegetative screening, which would help conserve the route's rural character. We would also be supportive of additional pedestrian links from the right of way to the land to the west of the site.

The granting of planning permission does not confer the right to divert a public right of way. The diversion of the right of way should be processed by the Local Planning Authority under TCPA powers, and can be progressed alongside the planning application.

Subject to the following footpath contribution being secured by legal agreement, we raise no objection to this proposal:

1. **In the interest of supporting sustainable travel and public amenity, the applicant provides a contribution of £80,000 towards enhancing Havant Footpath 73.**
   This enhancement would break-down as follows:
   a. Resurfacing of the route (800m): £64,000
   b. Officer time to deliver this project (15%): £9,600
   c. Future maintenance of this enhancement (10%): £6,400

Many thanks,

Ben Marsh
Countryside Access Support Officer - Planning
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