

## **Consultation Report**

### **Steyning – Proposal to create new permissive bridleway link between Wiston and Steyning utilising part of footpath 2704\_1**

#### **1) The existing path and background to the proposal - see plan numbered 01809b**

WSCC and the relevant landowner have been exploring a proposal to create a permissive bridleway link between Wiston and Steyning. This permissive bridleway would connect Mouse Lane in Storrington to the existing onward link to Washington and provide a safer alternative to the A283 for journeys along this corridor and to/from the South Downs Way. The desire for this link is stated in the Walking and Cycling Strategy.

The permissive bridleway would commence along the route of Footpath 2704\_1 from Chanctonbury Ring Road in Wiston and continue generally east, deviating off the definitive line for a short section between points X and Y on the attached [plan \(PDF, 897KB\)](#) and continuing to join with the public highway at Mouse Lane in Storrington. The route is shown on the [plan \(PDF, 897KB\)](#) between point A and B.

By entering into a formal permissive agreement with the County Council, the future of the path, for use by equestrians and cyclists (in addition to the existing pedestrian use) can be secured for an agreed period, in this case 10 years. Existence of the permissive agreement will enable it to be waymarked and to receive inspection and maintenance attention as part of the County Council's routine path maintenance cycle.

#### **2) Consultations**

On 24 April 2023 a copy of this consultation report was sent to the relevant user groups and other interested parties with the request that any comments be submitted by 22 May 2023. Notice of the consultation was also included in the Members' Bulletin. Before proceeding with any legal order, careful consideration will be given to all comments received.

#### **3) West Sussex Rights of Way Management Plan, Human Rights Act 1998, Equality Act 2010 and Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

In considering this application the County Council's responsibilities under the provisions of the above have been taken into account.

#### **4) The Works and Costs**

The permissive bridleway will be provided to a width of 3m and all existing stiles along the length subject to the permissive agreement would be removed and replaced with suitable bridleway gates. The field headland sections will be resurfaced to a bridleway standard and work would be required to bring the culvert behind Round Robin up to a suitable standard.

A successful bid has been made for part of this scheme to be covered by CIL funding and the remaining costs being covered by existing Section 106 contributions. WSCC would meet the authority's legal costs of entering into a 10-year permissive path agreement with landowners, necessary route signing

and ongoing maintenance responsibilities. All works would need to be completed to a satisfactory standard before the agreement was brought into effect and the path signed as a permissive bridleway.

## **5) Overall Conclusion**

This proposed permissive bridleway will provide a variety of users a safe and largely off-road attractive route between Washington and Steyning. The cooperation of the landowners is very much welcomed. Should you have any comments to make on this proposal, please could they be sent to me by the 22 May 2023.

Ami Dye  
Senior Rights of Way Officer  
April 2023