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Peter Catchpole
Chairman
North Horsham County Local Committee
County Hall
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ

Dear Peter,

Thank you for your letter dated 30th November regarding the Community Highway Scheme submissions in the North Horsham CLC area.

It is unfortunate that all the applications received for your CLC area did not meet the criteria for progression, which I can assure you is being consistently applied across the county through the respective Area Highway Managers and independent moderation team. It is important that we have criteria that applies to all applications so we can ensure that schemes submitted are feasible, offer wider community benefit and meet our priorities in the West Sussex Plan.

I am pleased to learn that the Area Highway Manager has agreed to meet with scheme applicants to advise on their submissions and make revisions as appropriate, but regretfully I cannot withhold finalising the Annual Delivery Programme for 2019/20 whilst this is undertaken. I understand there are quite a number of applications and it is likely to take the Area Highways Manager several months to work through all the schemes with all the applicants, commensurate with his other duties, and we do need to proceed with the schemes that did meet the threshold criteria. Of course any schemes that are revised and likely to meet the criteria can be resubmitted for consideration for the following financial year.

In relation to quality of submissions and information to applicants, work is being undertaken to provide better advice through the web pages so that future applicants are better informed about what types of schemes are likely to be successful and what we are unlikely to approve. The application form and process are also being reviewed to identify potential improvements and make it easier for applicants to complete. This work is in progress at the present time and should be completed in the new year. At any time the Area Highway Manager would be happy to advise potential applicants on their submissions, however this will not necessarily guarantee the scheme will still meet the relevant criteria.

With regard to the points scoring, this information is freely available from the Area Highway Manager and he will discuss applications with individual Members on an as needs basis to better understand how this score was reached. I do acknowledge your comment about sharing the information in the report to CLCs and will ask the Highways Team to address this for next year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Elkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Roger Elkins

Cabinet Member for Highways and infrastructure.