

From: Sarah Rayfield <sarah.rayfield@bhs.org.uk>
Sent: 10 July 2020 08:58
To: NI Enquiries <NIEnquiries@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: Mark Weston <mark.weston@bhs.org.uk>; Wade, Jonathan <Jonathan.Wade@highwaysengland.co.uk>
Subject: M25 junction 10/A3 Wisley interchange improvement (Closing Date for submissions 10th July 2020)
Importance: High

Further to correspondence below, I do hope that The Examining Authority will exercise its discretion to accept an Additional Submission from the British Horse Society (See below)

I do also hope you will be able to ensure that this response reaches the correct email address if this is not the one (urgently given the closing date is today!)

Dear Sir or Madam

I am responding in connection with the above on behalf of the British Horse Society, the UK's leading equestrian charity with over 110,000 members representing the UK's 3 million regular riders and carriage drivers.

A substantive response to the initial consultation relating to this project was made back in 2017 by the BHS. Subsequently the project plans have changed beyond all measure from those originally sent out for consultation but there has been no new consultation on the revised plans. We believe that this is certainly not in the spirit of Highways England's own guidance GG142. One of our volunteers, Bob Milton, has spent a great deal of time on this project but the way in which the information has been set out in relation to provision for Non Motorised Users has rendered it almost impossible to follow. 34 maps are involved and there is no 'overall plan'.

Our concerns include the following:

- The original plan to which BHS responded included provision for carriage drivers which has not been carried forward to this application
- The original scheme had an all purpose NMU route from North to South; this is no longer present
- Piecemeal patches of s193 common land has been left inaccessible to equestrians rendering it useless and a loss for equestrian access
- Footpath 7 should be a bridleway
- Fencing has been put in to allow common to be used as grazing land but, again, this has rendered it inaccessible to legitimate use by equestrians because of the other changes alongside.
- The provision of cyclist and pedestrian only on demand crossing lights on bridleways means that equestrians are discriminated against and this is something which can be easily remedied.

- The scheme does not deal with the anomalies of the existing rights of way network and the access to registered common and open space in relation to the replacement land.
- A detailed re-examination with us of the NMU and exchange land provisions is urgently required and should be made conditional of any consent regime so as to remove all anomalies for a sustainable future.

By discriminating against equestrians by exclusion, sadly you are also discriminating against women. Compared with cycling, which is mostly male dominated, equestrianism is a sport dominated by women (some studies suggest in excess of 90%, particularly at grass roots levels such as those who enjoy the use of safe off road routes and commons for riding). Furthermore the age range of equestrianism is vast, incorporating both teenagers and women in their mid 40s and above, both of which groups are a demographic highlighted by Sport England as being a group at risk of being otherwise sedentary. Finally, horse riding (and especially carriage driving) are recreational activities at which those with even quite severe disabilities might participate at level equivalent to their able-bodied peers. You have only to look at our success in the Paralympics to see this. One woman, in her 70s and no longer able to walk more than short distances, recently commented that “My horse gives me back my wings” By neglecting to make full and equal provision for equestrians alongside walkers and cyclists, you would be failing a significant population in the local area.

Yours faithfully

Sarah Rayfield

Sarah Rayfield
Access Field Officer, London & South East

The British Horse Society

Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth
Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

Telephone: 02476 840713 Mob:07971059262

Email: sarah.rayfield@bhs.org.uk

Website: www.bhs.org.uk

Sarah Rayfield
Access Field Officer, London & South East

The British Horse Society

Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth
Warwickshire CV8 2XZ

Telephone: 02476 840713

Email: sarah.rayfield@bhs.org.uk

Website: www.bhs.org.uk

Please support our programme Changing Lives through Horses.

Donate today to help transform a young person's life. Please consider making a donation, visit:

www.changinglivesthroughhorses.org.uk or text 'CLTH65 £5' to 70070 to start changing someone's