

# South Downs

## Local Access Forum

To: James Silvester, Principal Transport Planner, Hampshire County Council

By email: [James.Silvester@hants.gov.uk](mailto:James.Silvester@hants.gov.uk)

Cc:

Date: 28 July 2015

Dear Mr Silvester

**Subject: South Downs Local Access Forum response to Hampshire Draft Cycling Strategy**

*This letter constitutes advice from the South Downs Local Access Forum. Hampshire County Council (HCC) is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions. The South Downs Local Access Forum (SDLAF) is the statutory forum for the South Downs National Park under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. SDLAF is an independent body which aims to give balanced advice about countryside access based on the wide range of views of its members who represent farmers, landowners, user groups, conservationists and those with disabilities.*

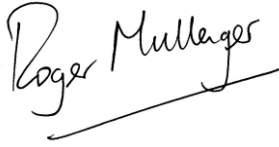
SDLAF strongly supports and endorses the need for a countywide cycling strategy and welcomes the opportunity to contribute to its development through consultation. Cycling has, in our view, a major part to play in promoting sustainable enjoyment of the South Downs National Park, which is of course our primary focus, as well as other parts of the county. We are particularly keen to see cycle access to the Park from the surrounding urban centres improved, so that more people are encouraged to leave their cars at home, as well as better conditions for cyclists within the Park.

The present (April/May 2105) draft document represents a significant step towards a robust strategy that can usefully guide HCC's policies and actions to encourage cycling and to improve conditions for cyclists. In particular, the document is much improved with respect to details of implementation and monitoring relative to the earlier draft on which we commented last year. It is especially good to see some measurable indicators of progress included (Table 4-2, pp.31-32).

Although a definite improvement, we should not pretend that the document is yet perfect. We would like to have seen HCC, as the statutory highway authority, provide more detail of concrete actions that are firmly in their remit and that only they can take. There is perhaps too much emphasis on "working with partners" (important though this is) and too little on addressing problems of poor cycling infrastructure on our roads and rights of way, for example ensuring that there is an end to past mistakes of building badly sub-standard cycle facilities. But given the satisfactory way that the strategy has evolved to date, it is perhaps not too much to

hope that it can be further developed and refined over time, through continued consultation and in light of experience gained in pursuing the strategy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roger Mullenger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Roger Mullenger

Chair of the South Downs Local Access Forum

Please send any response c/o:  
Tim Squire  
Rights of Way and Access Officer  
South Downs National Park Authority  
Stanmer Park Office  
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Brighton  
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For more information about the South Downs Local Access Forum:  
[www.southdowns.gov.uk/laf](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/laf)