

Brighton & Hove Friends of the Earth

News Release

For Immediate Release: Tuesday, 5 June, 2018

Cycle facilities branded a joke in Ikea development

Brighton & Hove Friends of the Earth (BHFOE) [1] is lambasting plans submitted as part of the New Monks Farm planning application, which includes an Ikea store, currently out for consultation [2]. They have branded the proposals as incoherent, dangerous, inconvenient and ill-thought out. They don't meet the latest design standards and will fail to encourage many people to cycle. Even pedestrians will suffer with these proposals.

Chris Todd of BHFOE said:

"These plans are a joke. The people drawing them up appear not to have a clue what they are doing. The constant stop-start of the shared paths to cross roads, the tight bends, the poorly designed crossing points, could all cause accidents. In many instances the paths are too narrow or use gravel. It's a real mess.

"Why do some engineers think they can get away with such shoddy proposals? They wouldn't build a main road in gravel, only just wide enough for two cars to pass, having to give way every hundred metres or so. So why do they design cycle facilities like this? Put pedestrians in the mix and they are going to create conflict.

"What is more disappointing is that cycling groups met with the developer months ago to outline many of their concerns. Unfortunately, not one of them appears to have been acted on.

"The biggest loss is the Shoreham Pad crossing. That needs to be replaced by an underpass or a bridge at that point. The replacement being promoted involves a 300 metre detour along an unlit path which is dangerously narrow.

"What's worse is that West Sussex County Council's transport department has overlooked how bad these plans are. It's only real comment was that some of the paths were too narrow in the country park and to ask for an extra cycle crossing. No wonder we have so much congestion in West Sussex when it is incapable of overseeing safe and sensible cycle facilities."

ENDS

Notes to editors:

[1] For more information on BHFOE see: <http://bhfoe.org/>

[2] The planning application can be seen on Adur District Council's website: <https://planning.adur-worthing.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=ORUFT5CB04U00>

People have until 25 June 2018 to comment on the revised proposals.