

Network Rail

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**NETWORK RAIL RESPONSE TO SOUTHBOROUGH AND HIGH BROOMS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN CONSULTATION**

Thank you for providing Network Rail the opportunity to make comment on the draft Southborough and High Brooms Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) 2024 -2038.

Network Rail is the statutory undertaker for maintaining and operating railway infrastructure of England, Scotland and Wales. As statutory undertaker, NR is under license from the Department for Transport (DfT) and Transport Scotland (TS) and regulated by the Office of Rail and Road (ORR) to maintain and enhance the operational railway and its assets, ensuring the provision of a safe operational railway.

The Neighbourhood Plan area boundary is located adjacent to High Brooms railway station. High Brooms provides regular connections to London Charing Cross and Tunbridge Wells and into East Sussex. Network Rail's comments focus on the station and are set out below regarding the relevant section of the draft NDP.

Network Rail supports Policy SHB13: Improving walking, cycling and equestrian opportunities. The draft Policy sets out opportunities to link pedestrian and cycle networks with public transport, including the rail station. High Brooms station has covered cycle parking for c32 bicycles and rail users should be encouraged to utilise this facility through the provision of safe cycle routes linking new development with the station. This would also meet the requirements of Network Rail's first and last mile policy to encourage the use of active travel when accessing the rail network.

Network Rail notes the content of Policy SHB14: Publicly accessible off road parking. The reference to alleviating parking congestion on the roads around the rail station is supported. Where possible, commuters and other users of the rail network should be encouraged to use the station car park provided.

I trust the above is clear and please do not hesitate to contact me if anything further is required at this point.



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