National Highways Planning Response (NHPR 24-02)
Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Christine Allen (Regional Director)
Operations Directorate
South East Region
National Highways
PlanningSE@nationalhighways.co.uk

To: Adur & Worthing Councils (FAO Louise Prew)
planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk

CC: transportplanning@dft.gov.uk
spatialplanning@nationalhighways.co.uk

Council's Reference: AWDM/0156/25

Location: Foreshore East Of Beach Inspectors Office, The Promenade, Worthing, West Sussex

Proposal: Erection of a 44m high observation wheel with viewing gondolas and associated structural base, payment booth and welfare facilities to operate from March to November (and at the same time each year until 2028)

National Highways' Ref: NH/25/10005

Referring to the consultation on a planning application dated 13 February 2025 referenced above, in the vicinity of the A27 that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that National Highways' formal recommendation is that we:

a) offer no objection (see reasons at Annex A);

~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – National Highways' recommended Planning Conditions & reasons);~~

~~c) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see reasons at Annex A);~~

~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see reasons at Annex A)~~

Highways Act 1980 Section 175B is not relevant to this application.[1]

This represents National Highways' formal recommendation and is copied to the Department for Transport as per the terms of our Licence.

Should the Local Planning Authority not propose to determine the application in accordance with this recommendation they are required to consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as set out in the Town and Country Planning (Development Affecting Trunk Roads) Direction 2018, via transportplanning@dft.gov.uk and may not determine the application until the consultation process is complete.

The Local Planning Authority must also copy any consultation under the 2018 Direction to PlanningSE@nationalhighways.co.uk.

Signature: [redacted]	**Date:** 21 February 2025
Name: Elizabeth Cleaver	**Position:** Assistant Spatial Planner
National Highways: Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ	

[1] Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.

Annex A National Highways' assessment of the proposed development

National Highways has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as a strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

We will therefore be concerned with proposals and policies that have the potential to impact the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in the case of this proposal, particularly the A27 trunk road.

Offer No Objection - Reasons

We are satisfied that the development will not materially affect the safety, reliability and/or operation of the strategic road network in this location and its vicinity.

Standing advice to the local planning authority

The Climate Change Committee's 2022 Report to Parliament notes that for the UK to achieve net zero carbon status by 2050, action is needed to support a modal shift away from car travel. The NPPF supports this position, with paragraphs 77 and 110 prescribing that significant development should offer a genuine choice of transport modes, while paragraphs 109 and 115 advise that appropriate opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport should be taken up.

Moreover, the build clever and build efficiently criteria as set out in clause 6.1.4 of PAS2080 promote the use of low carbon materials and products, innovative design solutions and construction methods to minimise resource consumption.

These considerations should be weighed alongside any relevant Local Plan policies to ensure that planning decisions are in line with the necessary transition to net zero carbon.