

Joanne Fisher

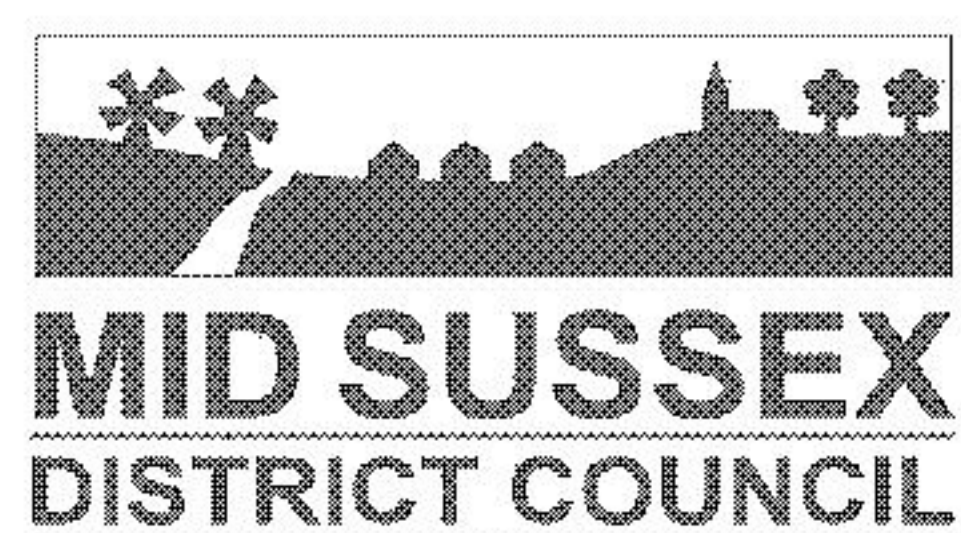
From: Kathryn Banks
Sent: 17 April 2026 10:25
To: Joanne Fisher
Subject: FW: DM/25/3021 - Copthorne Common Road

Hi Jo,

We have had the below email with comments from Ben at Metrobus so just forwarding on to you.

Kathryn.

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Working together for a better Mid Sussex



Subject: DM/25/3021 - Copthorne Common Road

Hi all

I attempted to submit a comment via the Mid Sussex Planning Portal regarding the Copthorne development on 15 & 16 April, but it appears the submission may not have gone through successfully - consultation closed yesterday.

<https://pa.midsussex.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=makeComment&keyVal=T6A25SKT04L00>

Would you please be able to forward the comment below, on behalf of Metrobus, to the appropriate team so that it can be formally recorded against the application?

Apologies for any inconvenience.

Thank you very much for your help.

"Commenting on behalf of Brighton & Hove Buses and Metrobus we run the 272, 400 and 500

Strong Existing Bus Connectivity

We support the Transport Assessment's conclusion that the site benefits from good existing bus connectivity, most notably via routes 272, 400 and 500, which provide direct and meaningful links to Crawley, Brighton, East Grinstead and Caterham.

We also wish to highlight the very positive addition of the Route 500, which will commence a new 24-hour service from 9 May, offering connections to Eastbourne and Gatwick Airport. This represents a significant enhancement to sustainable travel opportunities in this location and strengthens the case for the site being well connected by public transport.

These services provide an excellent foundation for reducing reliance on car travel and supporting the development's sustainable transport credentials.

Opportunity to Enhance Bus Stop Infrastructure

In light of the strong bus services available, we believe there is a valuable opportunity for the scheme to further strengthen its sustainable transport offer through modest but impactful improvements to nearby bus stop infrastructure, particularly at Newtown and Abergavenny Gardens.

We would positively welcome consideration of the following enhancements:

- ***New or upgraded bus shelters***, offering weather protection and a higher-quality waiting environment
- ***Seating, lighting, and raised kerbs***, to improve comfort, safety and accessibility for all users, including those with mobility impairments
- ***Real-time passenger information (RTI)***, helping users make informed travel choices and increasing confidence in bus use
- ***Improved signage and wayfinding***, making it clear and intuitive to walk from the development to the nearest bus stops
- ***Maintenance*** - any upgrades to stops need to be maintained.

These measures would help to fully realise the benefits of the existing bus network and encourage greater use by future residents.

Pedestrian Access and Walking Environment

We are supportive of the pedestrian improvements proposed within the Transport Assessment and note the new footway connection and crossing facilities in the vicinity of the site access.

However, we believe there is scope to further enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility, particularly in relation to walking routes between the development and the Newtown bus stops. At present, it does not appear that there is a clearly defined, continuous, and comfortable walking route between Newtown and the site, which may limit the practical use of nearby bus services especially along a 50mph road.

We therefore encourage consideration of:

- Ensuring a safe, continuous and accessible pedestrian route between the development and the Newtown bus stops*
- Providing a walking environment that feels appropriate and welcoming given traffic conditions on Copthorne Common Road*
- Treating pedestrian access to bus stops as an integral part of the development's sustainable transport strategy*

Addressing these points would help ensure that the excellent bus services available can be safely and easily accessed by all residents.

By building on the positives already identified - particularly the presence of routes 272, 400 and the new 24/7 Route 500 - these improvements would help ensure that sustainable transport is not only available, but genuinely attractive and accessible to future residents.

Travel Incentives and Encouraging Bus Use

In addition to physical infrastructure improvements, we see a strong opportunity for the development to actively encourage residents to use and try the bus, particularly during the early occupation phase when travel habits are being established.

We would welcome the inclusion of positive travel incentives, which could include:

- Introductory or discounted bus tickets for new residents*
- Free or subsidised bus passes for an initial period following occupation*
- Clear information packs highlighting local bus routes, frequencies and destinations*
- Promotion of key connections, including direct access to employment centres, town centres and Gatwick Airport via the new 24/7 Route 500*

Such measures can play an important role in helping residents experience the convenience of bus travel first-hand and support long-term behaviour change in favour of sustainable transport.

Overall, we support the development's reliance on a strong existing bus network and consider that relatively modest enhancements to bus stop infrastructure and pedestrian access and travel incentives would significantly strengthen the scheme's sustainability credentials.

We would welcome these enhancements being considered as part of the ongoing development of the proposals."

Best wishes,

Ben Garcia | Business Development Manager
Brighton & Hove Buses | Metrobus | The Spirit of Sussex

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