



# Sussex Countryside Trust

Standing up for your countryside

## CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust

Brownings Farm  
Blackboys  
Uckfield  
East Sussex  
TN22 5HG

Phone 01825 890975  
Email [info@cpresussex.org.uk](mailto:info@cpresussex.org.uk)  
[www.cpresussex.org.uk](http://www.cpresussex.org.uk)

*Please reply to:*

Justin French-Brooks  
Chairman CPRE Mid Sussex

Email [justinfrenchbrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:justinfrenchbrooks@hotmail.com)

30 May 2012

Planning Department  
Mid Sussex District Council

For the attention of: Mrs Sarah Sheath, Senior Planning Officer

By email: [sarah.sheath@midsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.sheath@midsussex.gov.uk)

Dear Mrs Sheath,

**Application Ref: 12/01238/ADV**

**Retrospective application for advertisement signs at Crawley Down Garage Service Centre.  
Courtlands Industrial Estate, Snow Hill, Crawley Down RH10 3DZ**

I am writing as Chairman of the Mid Sussex branch of CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust to express CPRE Sussex's objection to this application. CPRE Sussex is the Sussex branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). It is a registered charity, number 265028, based in Sussex, and exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural Sussex by encouraging the sustainable use of land and other natural resources in town and country.

CPRE Sussex **objects** to the retention of these signs. It considers that the signs are large and unattractive and are incongruous in this essentially rural location. As such, it is CPRE Sussex's view that they represent a significant further degradation of the appearance and character of the locality. The impact of the signs is particularly significant when heading eastwards on the A264, where they are seen in contrast to an attractive rural backdrop, but they are excessive in scale when viewed when approaching from either direction, extending across virtually the entire width of the exceptionally wide verge either side of the access at an angle to the highway and dwarfing the existing sign for the premises.

CPRE Sussex believes that the retention of these signs would be contrary to Policy C1 of the Mid Sussex Local Plan in that it restricts development in the countryside to certain specific categories of development, which do not include advertisements. CPRE Sussex considers this policy to be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework and therefore to be given substantial weight.

Notwithstanding this consistency, the Framework is a material consideration in the determination of this application. The Framework sets out 12 core planning principles, including recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside. Paragraph 67 is particularly relevant to this application: it states '*Poorly placed advertisements can have a negative impact on the appearance of the built and natural environment*'.

CPRE Sussex also considers the signs to be unnecessary to advertise to passing traffic as motorists are unlikely to call in for an MOT whilst just passing.

CPRE Sussex therefore urges the District Council to refuse permission for the retention of these ugly and inappropriate signs and to take the necessary action to secure their removal.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin French-Brooks', with a stylized, cursive script.

**Justin French-Brooks**

**Chairman CPRE Mid Sussex, on behalf of CPRE Sussex Countryside Trust**