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27 January 2021

Dear Sir or Madam,

### **THE WAREHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – SUBMISSION CONSULTATION**

Thank you for consulting the Ramblers on the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan. This is a response to that plan on behalf of the Ramblers Dorset Area.

The Ramblers works to help everyone enjoy the pleasures and benefits of walking, and to enhance and protect the places where people walk. As walkers and users of the countryside, we understand the importance of our environment for the health and wellbeing of all. We are committed to encouraging and supporting walking, protecting and expanding public rights of way and access land, and protecting the beauty of the countryside and other areas.

The Ramblers commends the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan as submitted for examination, in particular Chapter 5: *A Pedestrian and Cycle Friendly Town*, and the policies it sets out (PC1,2,3 and 4). The only improvement we suggest would be more discussion of these pedestrian and cycle routes in the context of the wider public rights of way network (i.e., how residents can access the wider countryside). The Covid-19 lockdowns have shown all too clearly how important access to nature and the countryside is. The Ordnance Survey map shows public rights of way to the east and west of the town, including the Purbeck Way, and these paths also feature in the "Poole Harbour Trail". However, Other than a mention of Wareham Forest as a destination for recreation there is no mention of linking to these wider opportunities for access.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Janet Davis  
Area Countryside Secretary

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