

Hi Arleta,

I agree with the landscape team that a MUGA would be required.

A MUGA is considered an area of informal recreational space for older aged children/teenagers and which forms part of wider provision for children and young people in an open space and are therefore considered in the HBC Open Space Strategy.

MUGA's are not listed in their own right in here, but considered as part of the wider provision for Children and Young People. The strategy outlines that it follows Fields In Trust (FIT) guidelines.

The below statement on p.60 of the strategy supports this:

- *'More varied provision is necessary to meet growing need around the Borough. This could include "kickabout" provision and areas for quieter play within open spaces surrounding equipped areas as well as new provision using FIT guidelines for new development'.*

The Campdown development is of a size that according to the FIT guidelines needs a MUGA and NEAP (Neighbourhood area for play) on site. It should include a play area, a hard surface area for ball games or wheeled activities such as skating or cycling and a shelter for meeting and socialising.

P.29 of the strategy highlights that a significant number of our sites for children and young people in the borough had equipment, but nowhere to carry out less formal activities (e.g. kickabout areas, picnic sites, etc.) and that facilities for young people such as "pump tracks" could be introduced.

It also demonstrates a significant shortfall in relation to the FIT guideline of 0.25 ha/1,000 population of equipped play facilities. This shortfall widens as the population increases by 2036 to 30.87 ha.

Given the boroughs significant health inequalities, additional play and informal recreational facilities are in my view vitally important in improving statistics such as the fact that 66.4% of adults and 38% of school children at year 6 are obese or overweight.

I would argue that even if existing play spaces/informal sport provision lies within the walking distance guidelines of the proposed development at Campdown, that they are far from being fit for purpose or welcoming to those who need them most. So, if an onsite facility cannot be provided (which would be the preference), then an offsite contribution to improve the quality of nearby informal facilities and to make traditional MUGAs more inclusive, accessible and inviting would be a minimum. Thier high sided fencing can feel like a cage which is often a very daunting and uninviting space to encourage young people to be active. So they need very careful designing together with the local community to ensure they are appealing. This is with a particular focus on making spaces like these welcoming for girls.

Hope this is helpful Arleta and let me know if you need anything further.

Many thanks
Simon

Simon Hasted

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Advance notice of leave – None

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