



Havant Borough Council
Planning Department
By email planning.development@havant.gov.uk

5TH August 2024

Dear Sir

Planning Application APP/24/00405

Havant Rugby Football Club (HRFC) is a non-profit community sports club providing rugby for all;- Men, Women, Boys, Girls and Minis (mixed), Players ages range from under 5 to over 70 (Walking rugby). We have a diverse membership of around 1000, ~800 of them playing, of which ~500 are below the age of 19. We support over 1000 hours of rugby playing/training activities over a season with over half of that on the grass of Hooks Lane playing fields – both on marked pitches and off, most of that takes place on Sundays. The club is managed entirely by volunteers and also provides valuable employment for around 30 people.

Sports clubs like ours provide a significant and valuable contribution to the health and well-being of those that participate, it is recognised that in turn places a lower burden on public services. HRFC appreciates that since the public consultation in 2023 Portsmouth Water Company (PWC) have involved us as a key stakeholder for the Hooks Lane element of their scheme in face-to-face discussions, recognising us as a key stakeholder.

As a result of the consultation, PWC have made a welcome and substantial route change to the pipeline route to reduce the loss of playing and training area during the pipe installation. However, the plans still show the original red line boundary across the middle of the pitches and outside of the agreed work area shown in the drawings. **This should be changed to align with the agreed route and as shown in the plans.**

Further to the above we will also need to time-shift sessions and also make greater use of the RFU Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) on the premises, We have some complimentary use of the AGP but have to pay for additional time. which has to be secured for a season and paid for. **This cost should not fall to the club members to pay and we would expect PWC to reimburse us for all such costs.**

The above time shifts will also cause inconvenience and disruption to our membership, particularly those with children in different age groups. The disruption to the club over a significant period could lead to a loss of members, which will impact on the viability of the club finances.

Havant Rugby Club

Hooks Lane Ground, Frazer Road, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire. PO9 3EJ
Club: 023 92477843 | Office: 023 9249 2311

Havant Rugby Football Club Limited, Company Number 10189913, VAT number 866 7937 55



We had also agreed with PWC that in order to keep the Northern pitch usable in the rugby season (Sept 1 to April 30th) that they would only install the Northern E-W run of pipe (and make good the ground) in the close season (May 1st – Aug 31st), to prevent any encroachment to within 5m of the pitch, which would render it unusable for matches. In season the fencing would be moved back to the Southern edge of the access road and if there were some discrete points at which the 5m clearance was unavoidable, then suitable mitigation would have to be agreed and put in place by PWC before any work was started.

Formalisation of this agreement should be a condition of approval.

It is important to note though that the work will still have a significant impact on HRFC for a number of years. This can only be managed if the timing of the work is as agreed and the area to be taken to do the work is minimised, as agreed and shown on the plans.

The landscape reinstatement plans show the application of sports mix seeding for playing areas, including 'Dingley Dell', but there is no other detail on creating a suitable root zone for the seeds, or how it will be nurtured and maintained to create a safe, playing surface. **A condition should be included to ensure that the area is maintained to an appropriate standard for a period of 5 years post completion of the work.**

In terms of traffic, there would not appear to be any proposal to use Fraser Road, but this is a key access road to the club, the nursery and the Bidbury schools. The majority of the people accessing this road are children and therefore more vulnerable. Given that it could potentially provide those working at shaft W2 with a more convenient route, this needs to be proscribed. **Ensuring that the traffic management plan clearly states that this route should not be used is essential.**

The final point relates to the potential future use for recycled water by Southern Water (SW). This proposal explicitly excludes this use in the application, however we have been told categorically that the PWC and the SW pipeline schemes, for the section between Bedhampton and Havant Thicket, are mutually exclusive and that if this scheme is approved then the SW scheme for this section (B) will make use of it, without the need for further disruption. The Hooks Lane section of the SW scheme also has a significant ground level impact and HRFC cannot tolerate a further pipeline project so soon after this one. We would look to see this mutual exclusivity formalised.

We therefore wish to register an objection to the application, in it's current form.

Yours sincerely

Gordon Brember – Facilities Director, Havant RFC

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