

HBC Leisure Officer Response 28.11.22

APP/22/00837 Erection of a 64 bed care home (within Use Class C2) and 6No. dwellings (within Use Class C3) with associated works including access, parking and landscaping. Land at Cowplain School, Hart Plain Avenue, WaterlooVille

The application includes the loss of an area of sports pitches at the school and suggests mitigation for this loss through qualitative improvements to the drainage of the remaining playing field. This will increase its capacity for community football and athletics use.

The HBC Leisure Team support the comments provided by Sport England in their response of 22nd November and would expect these to be addressed to their satisfaction.

A separate response is provided below for the concurrent application for the drainage scheme.

APP/22/00838 Drainage works to improve drainage of school playing fields. Cowplain School, Hart Plain Avenue, WaterlooVille, PO8 8RY

The drainage design and specification respond to the pitch assessment as completed by the Grounds Management Association. This provides assurance that the design is fit for purpose.

The scheme responds to the boroughs Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and local evidence of need. Specifically, Recommendation 7: *'Continue to invest in the grass pitches across the study area, to improve the quality and reduce the amount of cancelled games during periods of poor weather. Enhance the drainage and maintenance of pitches that are currently being used over-capacity by clubs.'*

The HBC leisure team are in favour of the proposed drainage scheme, subject to the below matters which need some further detail.

- Currently the application only details the immediate maintenance to be completed during the 12 months from completion. Further information is required regarding the ongoing management and maintenance arrangements for the drainage scheme, grass pitches and long jump pit. The expectation is that a detailed ongoing maintenance plan is provided to ensure the pitches will be continually maintained to a high standard.
- The application does not detail the school's ambition to enter into a community use agreement. This is expected in order to secure accessible use of the facilities for community users. A community use agreement would align to Recommendation 5 of the PPS: *'Work with educational establishments that provide playing pitches for use by community teams, to secure formal community use of pitches and ancillary facilities through a Community Use Agreement (CUA).'*

- The application does not detail the project management and construction process for the drainage scheme. Some detail would be expected on how the construction project will be managed to ensure the scheme meets the design and technical requirements of the NGB's. The construction works should be completed by a specialist sports pitch drainage contractor, as registered through SAPCA (Sport and Play Construction Association).

Many thanks

Simon Hasted

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Havant Borough Council