



Subject: APP/23/01044 | Construction of a wider and safer shared route on Gauntlett Park for pupils accessing Morelands Primary School. | Recreation Ground Gauntlett Park, Morelands Primary School, Crookhorn Lane, Waterloooville

Dear Kayleigh,

APP/23/01044 | Construction of a wider and safer shared route on Gauntlett Park for pupils accessing Morelands Primary School. | Recreation Ground Gauntlett Park, Morelands Primary School, Crookhorn Lane, Waterloooville

Thank you for consulting me on this application.

The application is accompanied by an Ecology Screening Report (HCC Ecology, September 2022). The report concludes that ecological impacts are likely to be limited, with potential impacts on bat species from reconfigured artificial lighting the most prominent potential impact. The proposal will result in the removal of existing lighting columns and new columns installed along the new path route. No lighting spillage drawings are provided and it is not therefore possible to ascertain the extent to which new lighting will potentially impact on adjacent habitat. I do not consider that any impacts would be significant – there is a benefit from removing lighting from the current route – although it is not possible for me to provide conclusive views. The submitted ecology report provides recommendations for new lighting – such as using either bollard lights or hooded column lights – in order to reduce potential impacts. I would welcome clarification on whether these recommendations have informed design and whether light spillage has been assessed.

Otherwise, I am content that ecological impacts are likely to be limited and non-significant. The ecology report contains some sensible recommendations to ensure that potential impacts are avoided/minimised, and these should be implemented. Areas of new landscaping are shown as being seeded, presumably with a standard amenity grass mix. It would be beneficial to include a wildflower mix element where possible, using a mix suited to clay soils.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Tristan

Tristan Norton

Principal Ecologist | 
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