

From: assistant clerk <assistant.clerk@rudgwick-pc.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 February 2026 10:21:16 UTC+00:00
To: "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Cc: "Anna Clayton" <clerk@rudgwick-pc.gov.uk>; "assistant clerk" <assistant.clerk@rudgwick-pc.gov.uk>
Subject: DISC/26/0022 Pennthorpe School
Categories: Consultations

Good morning

Please find Rudgwick Parish Councils observations below;

Applications for noting at Rudgwick Parish Council Meeting 9 th February 2026	
Application No: DISC/26/0022 23.01.2026	Response/Comments: Pennthorpe School is a feature of Rudgwick village and hopefully will continue to flourish in the community for the future. The present situation with this Community Use Agreement situation (CUA) is regrettable, a satisfactory resolution is long overdue and there are some points that should be made: • Rudgwick Parish Council (RPC) supported the original application for the MUGA DC/19/2573 after an approach to the parish council by the Head and a Governor in which the community use of the new facility was a feature. • Condition 7 of the approved application was a Pre-Occupation Condition noting that 'use of the development shall not commence until a CUA has been submitted and approved by the LPA'. • According to the readily available online information the new MUGA was unveiled with ceremony on October 14th 2022. This seems rather at odds with the assertion in the applicant's supporting letter that work commenced in February 2023 and completed in October 2023. Perhaps this needs clarification. • Disappointedly for the local community no application to discharge any conditions
Applicant: Pennthorpe School, Church Street, Rudgwick	
Reason for Application: Application for Approval of Details Reserved by Condition 7 to approved application DC/19/2573.	
Official Response Date: Not available / Determine 20/03/2025	

relating to community usage was offered until May 2024, sometime, it is believed, after the MUGA was put to use by the school. That application was presumably prompted by a meeting between RPC and Pennthorpe on 13th March 2024 when the matter was raised. To prevent the school from using the facility while the matter is resolved would not serve any useful purpose. However if more prompt an effort had been made earlier in the process to submit a draft CUA, and comply with the conditions required, the current issue may have been long resolved.

- The safeguarding of the pupils must be the priority for everyone, that is not in doubt and it is noted that the hire rates have been reduced to reflect the lack of facilities available for the community hirers as a consequence. But the fact remains that permission was granted for the MUGA with community usage as a Pre- Occupation planning condition. Planning conditions are there for a reason and should be adhered to. Surely the onus is on the applicant to research the implications of carrying out the development and ensuring that conditions can be complied with. Would the application have been permitted without the community use element being included?
- RPC would like the MUGA to be available for community use as soon as possible, as a considerable time has passed by. It is now believed to be over 3 years since the MUGA was unveiled for use. Whether the £30 per hour is a fair rate of hire for the facilities without toilet access etc. is a matter for the LPA to decide. Perhaps there could be some more flexible arrangements allowing for those hirers opting for outside school hours or during school holidays when no pupils are present on site to have access to some facilities? This maybe a matter for the proposed Review Committee to keep under consideration if the condition is discharged.

--	--

With kind regards

Sarah

Sarah Hall

Assistant Clerk to Rudgwick Parish Council

Telephone: 01403 822678 / Email; assistant.clerk@rudgwick-pc.gov.uk

Clerk &/or Assistant Clerk are contactable Mon-Fri normal office hours

In the event of an emergency please call 07927 702321 or 07547 114166

Parish office opent to the public Mon, Thur & Fri 10.00am-1.00pm