



BRIGHTER PLANNING CONSULTANCY

SHEDDING LIGHT ONTO THE PLANNING PROCESS

18th March 2026

Kate Turner

Senior Planning Officer

Horsham District Council

Dear Kate,

Proposed two-storey extension to the existing sports centre to provide two new swimming pools, spa facilities, two class studios, a fitness suite and cafe. Construction of a six-lane, all-weather running track with eight-lane sprint track and ancillary athletic facilities and floodlighting. Construction of a 3G artificial grass pitch with floodlighting. Relocation of spoil on land to the east. Creation of an unlit outdoor adventure area with 15 stations east of the new track. Associated car parking for 272 cars, and a new permanent access to Christ Hospital Road, closure of the existing Infirmary Drive access with conversion of disused section of drive to a sprint track. Erection of associated equipment store, fencing and lighting. With Water Neutrality variation - Christs Hospital School The Avenue Christs Hospital Horsham DC/24/0063

Discharge of condition 13- Community Use Agreement DISC/26/0004

Further to your email dated 17 March 2026 with regards to the above Discharge of Condition Application, I am writing to respond to the questions you have raised.

- **For HDC to be involved in the Management Committee for Bluecoats Sports**
Christ Hospital School are agreeable to this. If you can please advise me as to who the best contact would be within the Planning Dept with regards to sending an invitation to attend future meetings, I can arrange for this to be actioned by the school.
- **An explanation as to why the community hours have been reduced from those set out in the Planning submission 2021.**

Since the planning statement was prepared almost 5 years ago, safeguarding controls and legislation for Boarding Schools have been tightened up by the government (National Minimum Standards for boarding schools and Keeping Children Safe in Education). The sports facilities approved under this application are first and foremost for the use of the school. The safeguarding controls requires the school to better segregate and supervise its students during use of the sports

facilities, particularly when members of the public might be present. This has meant that the sharing of all the sports facilities has had to be reviewed with use for the school having the daytime priority. The school would point out that they have kept the hours of use during the school holidays to all day, 7 days a week.

- **Concern is raised that the new athletic track is only proposed to be open for public/club use after 6pm**

The school have always intended for outside users to be able to use the track including other running clubs, but access can only be permitted when the facilities are not in use by the school (i.e. after 6pm) and via priority booking with the Bluecoats Sports Reception who manage the use of the site on behalf of the school. Any external groups would need to fit in around the prime use of the facilities for the pupils attending the school.

- **It is noted that the school have delegated the operation and running of the track and other new facilities to Bluecoats.**

All the new sports facilities have always been intended for use principally by the school and the operational management of these have always been shown to be via Bluecoats Sports who operate the new and existing sports facilities on behalf of the school within the existing sports centre.

- **An explanation of the rationale behind the reduction in community hours is required particularly for the football pitches.**

As set out above safeguarding controls have become stricter which limit the daytime hours where the facilities could be used by outside parties in term time until after the 6pm threshold. The facilities will be available in school holidays all day seven days a week.

The school will not be allowing football on the athletics infield for at least the first 18 months to allow the grass to grow and bed in and see how it holds up to the field throwing events.

I trust that this clarifies the position and answers the questions you have raised. If you want to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Charmain Hawkins

Director