HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	New Southwater Sports Club Church Lane Southwater West Sussex
DESCRIPTION:	Erection of four 20m wide ball stop nets with poles to the four goal ends on the existing community football pitches at Southwater Sports Club.
REFERENCE:	DC/24/1495
RECOMMENDATION:	No Objection
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION: See below.	

MAIN COMMENTS:

The site is located outside the Built Up Area Boundary (BUAB) of Southwater, in a countryside location. It is generally rectangular in shape, comprising two football pitches. The boundaries are relatively undefined save for fencing, allowing for open views into the surrounding countryside experienced by receptors within the wider landscape context.

A playground and residential dwellings abut the south east of the site, with open fields to the north and east. The wider Southwater Sports Club site is situated to the south. Multiple public right of ways (PRoWs) are located in close proximity of the site:

- PRoW 1661 runs along the northeastern site boundary
- PRoW 1655 runs along the northwestern site boundary
- PRoW 3568 runs along the southwestern site boundary
- PRoW 1656 ends/begins in the northern site corner
- PRoW 3674 ends/begins in the southern site corner

Views of the proposals are available on these PRoWs, however they are experienced within the existing, context of the sports field and more recent fencing. It is deemed that these views are observed by receptors associated with the Sports Club or with the urban fringe. Therefore, while netting is an urbanising detractor that will further detract from the rural qualities of the area and experience of the users of the public right of way, it will be seen in the context of the existing Sports Club setting and adjacent housing estate. Therefore the further adverse effects experienced on the character and visual amenity of the area are not deemed significant.

Notwithstanding this, we note that the nets are to be green in colour to better blend in with the surrounds as well as be lowered after matches, both details of which are welcomed.

RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS: N/A	
NAME:	Elly Hazael Trainee Landscape Architect (Planning)
DEPARTMENT:	Specialists Team - Strategic Planning
DATE:	01/11/2024
SIGNED OFF BY:	Inês Watson CMLI Specialists Team Leader (Landscape Architect)
DATE:	05/11/2024