

The Planning Case Officer

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION OF EVIDENCE OF OVERWHELMING LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Planning Application Reference: PP-15160811

Site Location: Woodland Area at Horsham Rugby Club, Hammerpond Road, Horsham, RH13 6CP

Proposal: Retention of Woods for Learning

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of **Woods for Learning** to formally submit a comprehensive schedule of public representation as official planning evidence in support of the above-referenced application.

The enclosed schedule details **117 verified representations of support** collected directly from members of the local community between 14 August and 27 August 2026. Each entry has been vetted, and every participant has given their explicit, GDPR-compliant consent for their name, location, and qualitative comments to be shared with Horsham District Council as part of the public register. In accordance with data privacy practices, telephone numbers and email addresses have been securely withheld by the applicant.

Material Planning Considerations & Policy Alignment

We respectfully urge the Planning Committee and Case Officers to evaluate this evidence against the **Horsham District Local Plan** and the **National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**, specifically focusing on the following material considerations clearly demonstrated by the community:

1. **Social & Community Infrastructure (NPPF Chapter 8 / Local Plan Policy):**
The feedback highlights an irreplaceable local community facility. The site provides essential school holiday care support for working parents and unique alternative educational pathways.
2. **Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Mental Health Provision:**
A significant volume of representations comes from parents, social workers, and teachers who emphasize that the low-structure, nature-led environment at Heron Copse/Try Woods is uniquely suited for neurodivergent children (including those with Autism, ADHD, EBSA, and EOTAS) who struggle or "mask" in conventional classrooms.
3. **Vocational Youth Training & Employment:**
The data provides direct evidence of local teenagers entering the facility as young volunteers at age 14 and successfully progressing into paid employment, building foundational skills in leadership, first aid, and bushcraft that feed into scouting and professional outdoor education sectors.
4. **Sustainable Ancient Woodland Custodianship (NPPF Chapter 15):**
Crucially, representations from local forestry professionals (including the Chairman of the Sussex and Surrey Coppicing Group) and trained volunteers confirm that Woods for Learning acts as active, sensitive custodians of the land. The operations actively manage and mitigate Ash Dieback, clear impenetrable historic storm damage, and instil strict "Leave No Trace" environmental literacy in local youth.

Conclusion

As noted by local residents living directly adjacent to the site, the current outdoor setup has **zero detrimental visual** on the woodland corridor. Instead, it serves as a highly valued, scarce asset that improves community health and well-being.

We kindly request that this covering summary and the attached index of the 117 supporters be uploaded to the public planning portal and fully considered in the Officer's report.

Yours faithfully,

Gary Marlow

Director CIC

List of names signed

Sophie Dallimore
Rachel Yuille
Stuart Hill
Steve offer
Lorraine Everard
Clive Cobie
Jennifer Myers
Hilary Harrold
Jess Rudling
Claire Wilks
Samantha Newton
Rebecca Packham
Lorraine Marlow
Claire Pierce
Elizabeth Bean
Jessica McCann
Damon Hughes
Clare Martin
Anna Campbell
Janine Hewins
Yasmin smith
Judith parham
Shannon Compton
Dave Phillips
Robert
Claire Copleston
Alex Coote
Fiona Robison
Jakki maybsnk
Denise burge
Louise Stacey

Natalie Stanley
Tony Williams
Sylvia Janes
Raymond smith
Clare harnan
LEE RENPHREY
Teresa Lefevre
Caroline McCurrach
Juliet Hawkins
Simon Hawkins
Lee Crutcher
Melissa Woodason
Beth Craigen
Lucy Farmer
Nick Lockhart
Aisling Hailes
Imogen Kilduff
Jane De Boise
Alison Currington
Jeneen Hare
Carrie Best
Penny Bryant
David Hodgson
Matthew Robinson
Jane Bustin
Graham scutt
Sara Addy
Steve Thompson
Alex Grover
Claire Rayner
Elisabeth hughson
Lorraine hockey
Maria Gwynn
Jon maynard
Charlotte McCulloch
Russell spratley
Daniela arnaldi la
mancusa
Donna White
Jane Rayner
Terrie Lochwood
Adam Jasko
Mark Aylmore
Barry Sandilands

Kiki Moss
Sarah Fiddaman
Hamish Kuperus
Ray Creasey
Tina fosberry
Anna Hamilton
Elizabeth Lloyd
Anna McLauchlan
Sharlotte Brewster
Carina Bryce
Gemma Kaminski
Sarah Geal
Nicola Roberts
Gemma Harrison
Hilary Naylor
Rachel Norton
Suzanne Dellmann
Dawn Filson
Redford
Scarlett Randall
Francis Talbot
Victoria Coward
Emma Trethewey
Zoe Taylor
Paul Castleton
Ian Davenport
Sylvia Leach
Neil Brenson
Paul Fiddaman
Carol David's
Simon Mutter
Rea Pope
Alex Irvine Cox
Jane haslam
Megan Wilks
K HEYWOOD
Darren Green
Ian Berry
Joanna Foster
Anais Pontet
Lauren Tatton
Owen Copleston
Lucy Simpson

