**From:** Planning@horsham.gov.uk <Planning@horsham.gov.uk>
**Sent:** 24 September 2024 15:24:01 UTC+01:00
**To:** "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
**Subject:** Comments for Planning Application DC/24/1157
**Categories:** Comments Received

# Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 24/09/2024 3:24 PM.

## Application Summary

| | |
|---|---|
| Address: | Hilliers Garden Centre, Camping World Brighton Road Horsham West Sussex RH13 6QA |
| Proposal: | Temporary change of use at the Camping World Site from retail (Class E) to allow use as an ice rink with associated facilities (Class F.2(d)). |
| Case Officer: | Kate Turner |

Click for further information

## Customer Details

| | |
|---|---|
| Address: | Birchfield House Ifield Road Charlwood |

## Comments Details

| | |
|---|---|
| Commenter Type: | Neighbour |
| Stance: | Customer objects to the Planning Application |
| Reasons for comment: | - Design<br>- Highway Access and Parking<br>- Loss of General Amenity<br>- Privacy Light and Noise |
| Comments: | Having witnessed first hand the last time they did it at this venue, at the garden centre its not the right venue, it wasnt then and that remains.<br><br>The problems last time were dangerous and even though they |

said they would address them, it was never consistent and there were a few near misses.

I see and am pleased to see there is a fire exit, however the marquee is surrounded on the majority of the way round by a 6ft high metal security fence and the fire exit is/was halfway down, what would the procedure be if something was to happen in the middle of the marquee? it would trap people at the far end and there is no escape route. If something did go wrong there is no way you could even get access to the other side of the security fence. Last year a hole was cut in the fence from the car park to allow large vehicles to access, this was then classed as the "fire exit" however for security the cut fence was put back in place and the marquee sealed to keep the cold out, no inspection mid way were done to ensure they met their safety obligations. The day before opening last time they were running about putting cones out and filling holes as they hadnt thought of this under their safety plan.

Parking was a nightmare and potentially dangerous - The car park does not have marked bays or any lines so people can and did park where they liked, they used cones with that cheap red tape wrapped round a cone which is fine for a day not several weeks use, these cones were easy to move, or blew over in wind. My yard is opposite Camping World and I had an area coned off to allow my lorries to enter and egress, but every busy day people moved the cones so they could park, they even parked in my yard as I was there working one day with gates open, sometimes they had parking attendants and some of them were good, however if they were called up the other for an issue or went on breaks, people moved the cones and parked where they liked. On quiet days there were no parking attendants but even on quiet days there were more cars than a normal trading day and it still caused problems. They made a roadway using cones and left a gap between cars, but people had to walk across that roadway with children the gap occasionally got parked in blocking the cars up that end in, so cars backed up, others could not get out, so the parking attendants went in to locate the car owner and when they were gone more cones got moved and people parked where they shouldnt whilst the cones by the entrance to protect that area were moved to allow cars to leave so now youve got people leaving and walking through departing cars- it was a nightmare at times. Problem also being the walk in entrance for the public crosses a road that was coned and as cars were parked all over as people came out after their session you had cars arriving for their session at the same time so you had double the amount of people and people leaving who had to walk past moving cars and irate drivers who couldnt park.

The other businesses on site also have regular deliveries and these include large artic lorries that had to negotiate their cones. now you have Cars and lorries leaving the site drive down past

people including children on school holidays entering and exiting camping worlds gate, they had a one way system but it didnt work for anything bigger than a van. There are also businesses around the back of Hiliers who have daily deliveries in smaller vans, as well as lorries these vehicles dont hang about and will have to drive through areas with children running about. Christmas is a busy time at the garden centre and add that to a daily event and you have an issue in a carpark thats over loaded.

When it was really busy there were queues' off the Brighton road getting into the site, bearing in mind this is a big site and has other businesses trading, in the end people were parking in the pub next door or on the pavement outside the garden centre, this caused obstruction for others leaving the site and slowed things down, as well as increasing footfall in the entrance which is not designed for walkers.

There was no provisions for safety for those pedestrians walking in off the Brighton Road and those people are walking in the same entrance with cars and lorries coming and going, they eventually put cones up but these cones were always being hit and moved so didnt always go out. Also people mainly teenagers were walking to the site from Horsham in the evening and the footpath coming out of town is not lit and I saw people walking using their phone torch so they could see the path on this fast road A281 main road.

There was some very bad signage which was no more than signs poked into cones and of course on windy days these blew over as did cones.

There was no lighting in a very dark car park, eventually they put one light in Camping World which made matters worse as you had to walk in towards a really bright light that blinded you which was dangerous. The car park is uneven and has many pot holes that during the day are visible but this event is open until 9pm when it dark. Also the cones used to guide cars, just sat there and at night became trip hazards.

The other business on site work up until 5pm and there was no added security daily, some days they had someone at the gate but not all the time. Camping World have no consideration for the other businesses on site and that was proven only this year when they held events as they were taking up the whole car park with customers blocking everyone in and again no liaison with other tenants as the first we knew was when we turned up struggled to get to our yards.

The ice rink they used before kept melting due to power issues, I hope this year they address this.

Last time there was no liaison with neighbours and thats not

changed the only way I found out about this was by reading it on Facebook.

Having been in the events industry for 35 years if this event is to happen they need a better organiser than last time (no I'm not looking to be involved) they need to address all the issues mentioned above on a proper basis not just for a day or so like before. What I would hate to see is someone seriously injured by one or more of the items listed above. I am not against the event happening I just want it to be safe and last time here they did not spend any money addressing issues raised, and what they did was on the cheap. I did raise these issues with those concerned before and nothing was done.

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Kind regards