



HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council – Planning Dept
LOCATION:	Public Open Space At Charrington Way Broadbridge Heath West Sussex
DESCRIPTION:	Renewal / regeneration of a play and recreation area, including a larger MUGA with a sensory trail and wild walk with additional landscaping, existing fitness equipment to be repurposed onto a hardstanding area and pathways to be widened and increased.
REFERENCE:	Dc/26/0022
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice / No Objection / Objection / More Information / Modification / Refusal
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION:	
The design supports the Council's Inclusive Spaces agenda, which provides spaces for all ages, genders and abilities. <i>Modifications to consider:</i> • Provide a couple of benches with a back and arms, which would be more suitable for the older generation. • Change the MUGA surfacing from wetpour to tarmac and then add a coloured surface to the tarmac to create the zones. The climbing wall then may need to be moved out of this zone, as it won't be a safety surface. • Specify that footings into the ground, particularly on taller items are either steel or hardwood to resist early rotting. Alternatively monitor closely and presume that softwood in the ground might not last nearly as long as expected.	

MAIN COMMENTS:

I support the improvements proposed for Charrington Way Recreation Ground. The new design uses planting and natural features to help create a sense of place, which will make the space feel much more welcoming for all. Most areas are connected by pathways which will improve usability in the wetter months.

Additional recreation features such as ball walls, table tennis table, climbing wall, swings balance trail will improve opportunities for practice of motor and balance skills.

Spaces for relaxation and socialisation have been provided. These are placed appropriately within the space to give good sight lines, so that users should feel safe.

The active area is within the current zone of active space, so whilst it is likely to be much busier, it shouldn't cause nuisance to local residents. In fact, the increase in usage of different age groups should help to make the space feel safer.

Design and Inclusivity

The provision of different types of seating and hammocks, the attractive planting and the open nature of the sports zone particularly helps to address a shortage in gender inclusive facilities. The design therefore supports the Council's Inclusive Spaces agenda, which provides spaces for all ages, genders and abilities.

Modification to consider:

Provide a couple of benches with a back and arms, which would be more suitable for the older generation.

Materials

The MUGA surface is specified as wet pour. I don't believe this will work well with the basketball zone, or if the ball wall is used for tennis, as the ball won't bounce properly.

There is a lot of wood equipment within the design. It is not clear what type of wood is being used, but this area of the Horsham District has heavy clay soils which retain water and can result in rot quite quickly.

Modification strongly recommended:

Change the MUGA surfacing from wet pour to tarmac and then add a coloured surface to the tarmac to create the zones. The climbing wall then may need to be moved out of this zone, as it won't be a safety surface.

Specify that footings into the ground, particularly on taller items are either steel or hardwood to resist early rotting. Alternatively monitor closely and presume that softwood in the ground might not last nearly as long as expected.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS:

No

NAME:Anna Chapman
Parks and Countryside Development Manager**DEPARTMENT:**

Parks and Countryside

DATE:26th February, 2026