WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council FAO: Amanda Wilkes
FROM:	WSCC – Highways Authority
DATE:	5 June 2024
LOCATION:	Horsham Y M C A Football Club Gorings Mead Horsham West Sussex RH13 5BP
SUBJECT:	DC/24/0048 Change of use of the main car park to regularise the use of 50 spaces as private parking to local businesses for weekdays, between the hours of 08.00am and 18.00pm. (This to exclude all weekends and Bank Holidays) No building work is required to the area which is covered by security cameras and has lighting. More information received.
DATE OF SITE VISIT:	n/a
RECOMMENDATION:	No Objection

The applicant has submitted the following documents in response to WSCC request for more information. This was to understand the highway safety and capacity impacts of the intended use on the access into Goring's Mead from the A281 Brighton Road. Information reviewed is: -

1. Additional info document.
2. YMCA Car parking management plan.
3. YMCA car park detail.

Existing/Proposed Use

The applicant states this is a retrospective application, and the car park has been operating for the past 9 months with no highways impacts, and as such do not see this as an intensification of use, rather an existing use which is being formalised via the planning system.

The applicant also confirms all trips to the site will already be using the A281 Horsham Road, as they will have been using car parks in the town centre. As such there is not a highway capacity impact on the A281.

Whilst these trips would have been on the network, they would not have been making the additional left or right hand turns into Goring's Mead. However, whilst these trips will create additional turning movements WSCC are mindful these could occur anyway as part of the existing planning use as a football club. As such this would not be considered an intensification of use.

WSCC would describe the access to Goring's Mead as narrow where it meets the A281, and its width varies in places along its entire length and cars will need to give way to one another at times. Whilst WSCC would prefer a wider access to provide two-way vehicle movement, this is an existing access

and whilst it has been in use has not had any highway safety issues, and at worst during busy periods may cause an inconvenience to road users having to give way, rather than a safety issue.

As such WSCC has investigated our Road Traffic Casualty and Collision database to see if there are any patterns and can confirm there has been no recorded incidents at this junction. This would suggest that this access is operating safely with this additional traffic and is not causing any capacity issues.

Footpaths

The applicant suggests the increase in footfall, has a positive effect on security of this area and use of the alleyway to the City Business Centre from Goring's Mead is encouraged. Historically, its use also provides a satisfactory level of natural surveillance and encourages car free access routes to and from the football ground.

Future Use

The applicant suggests this use could cease once the new 3G pitch is complete, as such the LPA may wish to consider this as a temporary use which could be reviewed later.

Summary

Therefore, whilst there has been an increase in vehicles using the car park over the last 9 months, in line with the NPPF this increase in traffic it is not causing any highway safety issues, and the cumulative impacts on the network are not considered to be severe. This is not considered to be an intensification of use as the site could operate with this number of movements as a football club.

WSCC acknowledge that whilst this increase could be an inconvenience to road users, and there will be busier periods when waiting and giving way could occur, it would not be a reason to objection to this application. No objection.

Alison Meeus
West Sussex County Council – Planning Services