

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council FAO: Sophie Moore
FROM:	WSCC – Highways Authority
DATE:	12 May 2026
LOCATION:	The Haven Dog Field, Okehurst Road, Billingshurst
SUBJECT:	DC/26/0544 Change of use of land to secure dog walking field with parking and access. (Retrospective).
DATE OF SITE VISIT:	n/a
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice

This application has been dealt with in accordance with the Development Control Scheme protocol for small scale proposals.

This application seeks the change of use of land to secure dog walking field with parking and access. The work is retrospective, and the application form states the work was completed on 31/01/2026. The site is located on Okehurst Road, an unclassified road subject to national speed limit.

There are no proposed changes to the existing access onto Okehurst Road. An inspection of collision data provided to WSCC by Sussex Police from a period of the last five years reveals no recorded collisions attributed to road layout within the vicinity of the site therefore, there is no evidence to suggest the existing access has been operating unsafely, or that the proposals would exacerbate an existing safety concern.

The field will operate on a booking system, with a maximum of two vehicles and six dogs per booking. The LHA does not anticipate that the proposed change of use would give rise to a significant material intensification of use of the existing access point.

The applicant proposes two car parking spaces for the site, which is considered sufficient for the proposed use. From inspection of the plans, the proposed parking area appears suitably sized and on site turning appears achievable.

The LHA does not consider that this proposal would have an unacceptable impact on highway safety or result in 'severe' cumulative impacts on the operation of the highway network, therefore is not contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 116), and that there are no transport grounds to resist the proposal.

Liz Corcoran
West Sussex County Council – Planning Services