ADUR & WORTHING
PLANNING SERVICES
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Need Statement

For

Proposed 400 meter long Polyurethane bound 1m wide running track around the rear playing field

At

Buckingham Park Primary School, Buckingham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea. BN43 5UD

The proposed installation of the rubber running track has come about to include the school in the "Daily Mile Challenge" (www.thedailymile.co.uk). This is a national and part global initiative to get school pupils (nursery to age 11) to run/jog/walk for approximately 15 minutes, sometime in the school day. The average length travelled by a pupil in 15 minutes is 1 mile.

There are numerous benefits in this activity as listed on the website and this includes improvements in physical, social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing, an aid to reducing any anxiety and stress, an aid to building relationships, improvement in fitness and a reduction in any obesity.

This has proven benefits back in the teaching environment with pupils returning back from the mile feeling refreshed, energised and quick to settle back into learning. Focus, concentration and behaviour are all improved leading to increased learning and a better atmosphere in classrooms.

Pupils with improved fitness also do better in physical education.

Benefits are long lasting with improvements lasting through secondary education and into adulthood.

The Playing field to the rear of the school has lumps, ruts, holes and other surface defects that create tripping hazards and a risk of injury for pupils. There are also times when surfaces become waterlogged and unusable. Repeated use will create a strip of the field where the grass will thin and be unable to grow leading to muddy areas where there will be slipping risks and mud trodden back into school buildings. Due to this and to have all weather, safe and defined running path of a known length it was felt that to have a rubber running track installed was the only option, for the school to be able to deliver The Daily Mile Challenge.

Use will be all pupils in the school and after school clubs. The running track will not generally be available for community use as there are child safety issues and a lack of lighting. However requests would be considered for properly planned sessions after pupils have left, and needed staff are around and within daylight hours.