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PLANNING SERVICES
PLAN | AWDM/ 1788/17
DATE VALID | 15 NOV 2017

Planning 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 site is 510 pupil primary school in the northern area of Shoreham. The school is reached by going down Hamfield Avenue, a short distance down Buckingham Road from Upper Shoreham Road. The rear field is easily reach by going north around the side of the school building over the tarmac playground through wide gates.

The site is surrounded by the rear gardens of surrounding houses of Upper Shoreham Road, Buckingham Close, Fairlawns, Buckingham Road, The Cygnets, The Herons, Kestrels and The Curlews to the North, West and south sides. The east side of the site leads onto the playing field of St. Nicolas and St. Mary Church of England School.

The project is to install an approximately 400m long, 1m wide, 50mm thick increasing to 75mm thick at edges, polyurethane bound rubber chip path, on a geo-textile membrane, around the grassed playing field of the school. This design gives a permeable surface as there are small gaps between the rubber particles that allow rainwater to drain through into the ground through the permeable membrane below.

This path is being provided to give a safe, prominent, measurable, all weather running surface, so the school can deliver the national "The Daily Mile" initiative. This is an initiative to get school pupils (nursery to age 11) to run/jog/walk for approximately 15 minutes, sometime in the school day (www.thedailymile.co.uk). The existing perimeter of the playing field was unsuitable for running with defects and times when the ground gets waterlogged. Without this surface a "muddy strip" will form, leading to slipping hazards and mud being taken into school buildings, along with tripping risks. The proposed running track is purely for the use of pupils at the school, for the "Daily Mile" and was not designed to be a running track to be used by athletes.

There is no need for the track to be a regular oval and the position of the loop has been chosen to fit round the perimeter of the playing field without going near to trees or other obstructions. There is no current marked out playing pitches but the position was also chosen to maintain a good area in the middle of the playing field. In the future, if a playing pitch was needed to be marked a standard 102m x 63m multi use pitch is easily able to be laid out inside of the proposed running track. The rubber path will be installed into the ground so the top surface is level with the surrounding ground and will allow normal grass cutting. The top surface of the path is black and resembles a tarmac path.

The site has no historic, ecological, landscape or any other designations. The school is in a flood risk area 1.

The school was built in 1958 and has had extensions built in 1974, 1980, 2008 and 2014. The previous land use was as allotments.

The running track will be used throughout the day from the hours of 09.00 to 15.00 with some use by after school clubs up to 18.00.

There will be no trees or bushes affected by the track as there are well away from the area where the track is being installed. The only excavation will be to install the track. There are no other items being installed (such as fencing, humps, lighting etc.).

The construction should take less than one working week. It will involve one van with easy access from the school entrance over the north side tarmac playground to the rear field through wide gates. There will be normal hours of work between the times of 08.00 to 17.00 with no weekend or bank holiday work. There will be a small storage area of the schools' north tarmac playground in use throughout the working period. Working noise will be from a small excavator, from the movement of the single van and talking by the workers.

The running track is being installed for the school, so there has been no community engagement. Closer to the planned working period, houses close to the rear field will be contacted to give warning the works are taking place.

There will be little impact on the use of the playing field due to the installation of the running track. The position has been chosen to not go over pitches on the rear field. The surface of the running track will not project above the ground surface and will be able to run across. Use of the rear field will be improved due to it being all weather use, in times when areas of the grass field is out of use due after heavy rain in winter periods. I can see no reasoned justification why this project should not be allowed.