



Environment
Mr. M. Hainge

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Dear Julia,

HEREFORD ACADEMY

Unfortunately I have only received the views from the Council's Parks and Countryside Officer which are summarised below. Therefore these comments are only based on my initial views and are caveated accordingly.

The principle of the development is accepted however no justification is put forward on the need to increase the build foot print in light of falling school rolls and the associated reduction in outdoor pitches. I am also concerned that this scheme has been worked up without reference to Sports England who will be a major consultee when a planning application is submitted and who have the ability to prevent determination of the planning application by the Council. In particular their input on the number of pitches and sizes etc will be critical to the overall layout and could well dictate where the development opportunities lie for the new school.

The favoured scheme, option two, gives an impression of a level site yet there is an 8m fall. and the layout creates overlaps in the provision of sports pitches. This said, the new build is well located and could provide an opportunity for an entrance feature to the school. Two storey residential adjoins the southern boundary and careful elevational treatment will need to be undertaken to ensure limited impact on the amenity of these dwellings which have historically enjoyed views over open playing fields. This scheme also leaves a considerable amount of unused grass areas for which and improved pitch configuration could overcome.

The Parks and Countryside Manager has submitted the following comments.

These comments will be necessarily general due to the level of detail on the plans.

1. I support the proposals that would result in a larger potential area to be utilised for sport. It is difficult from the plans provided to evaluate proposed versus existing in respect of this provision.

Continued



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2. I think that the playing pitch layout could do with being revisited. Better use of space and the opportunity for small-sided pitches could be afforded. I also feel that the hard play area may be better sited and the opportunity for an ATP should be given full consideration.
3. It is unclear where changing accommodation will be and whether this will be adequate given the number of stand-alone playing areas. We don't want to have another Whitecross School where the changing is totally inadequate for indoor and outdoor use.
4. It is unclear whether any floodlighting is being proposed. If it is, efforts should be made to ensure that it will be adequate for both training and competitive opportunities.
5. I trust that the sporting areas will be made available for community use. If so, they would make a significant contribution to the shortfall in community accessible playing pitches within the City. Every effort should be made to facilitate this opportunity.

I would welcome the opportunity to view larger scale plans when available and to discuss in an appropriate forum with the developers the potential for enhanced community access.

Unfortunately despite my efforts, I have not received response from other internal consultees and therefore my response at this stage is necessarily brief. However in my view whilst the principle of these proposals are broadly supported by adopted policies within the Herefordshire Unitary Development Plan 2007, the other key issue upon which I have not received a feedback is that of traffic generation and access arrangements. The feasibility of this project will need to be assessed against a Traffic Impact Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal that demonstrates that the existing access arrangements and junction with the A49(T) has sufficient capacity to deal with any uplift in traffic movement.

I trust that this provides at least some degree of comfort so far as the high level principle is concerned but there are some fairly significant detailed issues that have already been highlighted that require attention as the scheme is developed further. I will provide further comments as and when they are received to further inform this process and look forward to further discussion prior to the submission of any planning application.

Yours sincerely,



**K.J. BISHOP
PRINCIPAL PLANNING OFFICER
PLANNING SERVICES**