

Comments for Planning Application 23/00117/FUL

Application Summary

Application Number: 23/00117/FUL

Address: Belmont School Warden Hill Road Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL51 3AT

Proposal: Installation of 200m oval running track with a 60m straight and run-off, 2no. smaller 100m ovals, a campus-wide 2 metre wide cycle track, a long jump pit and informal and equipped play areas. Erection of 1no. MUGA (to include five-a-side football pitch), 1no. BMX pump track (advanced and beginner combined) and bleacher seating.

Case Officer: Mrs Lucy White

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: 55 Eldon Road Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL52 6TX

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Other

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: Dear Mrs White,

My wife and I have been volunteering with Goals Beyond Grass for the last three years at the Sunday afternoon inclusive cycling sessions at Belmont School. We have already written in support of this application but here we would just like to comment on the suggestion that the existing Sunday afternoon sessions should be stopped.

Key points:

- The Sunday afternoon sessions are exactly the sort of activity that supports CBC's Physical Activity Strategy for Cheltenham
- They also support CBC's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy of equality of opportunity for all people
- Noise and environmental impact of these sessions is minimal

Detail

Looking through Cheltenham Borough Council's Draft Vision and Outcomes for Physical Activity and Sport, we see that the leaflet has a picture of some of the bikes we use on Sunday afternoons. That picture also includes MaryClare Faulkner, who organises and runs the Sunday afternoon sessions. MaryClare has been selected by Active Gloucestershire, the charity behind the We Can Move movement, as one of ten 'changemakers' for a community photography project

to showcase the stories of individuals making a difference in their communities, sectors or workplaces through physical activity. We find it very hard to believe that CBC would consider cancelling these sessions when they are exactly the sort of activity which fits the vision. CBC should be taking great pride in the fact that such an activity is taking place on their patch and should be using these sessions to promote their strategy. The Active Gloucestershire project provides a great opportunity to do so.

The people who attend the Sunday sessions have a range of physical and/or cognitive deficits, and accessible outdoor opportunities to exercise are few and far between. Those who attend benefit enormously from the exercise, both from a mental and physical health point of view. Surely, it would be totally wrong to deprive a minority group of their right to exercise given the overall lack of opportunity, and the commitment in CBC's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy to equality of opportunity.

The noise from these sessions is minimal - normal conversation plus some encouragement of participants from time to time. We don't use the play area or playing field - the cycling activities are limited to the school's tarmac roads and playgrounds. More noise comes from the magpies in the field, the great tits in the trees and the seagulls flying overhead. It's been so quiet that we've seen a fox trotting around the field. We find it really hard to see noise and disruption to Sunday life as an issue, especially when there are people mowing their lawns, aircraft on the approach to Staverton airport, and a football match often taking place within earshot.

Perhaps the people suggesting cancellation of the sessions should come along and see what we do? It wouldn't involve anything other than a short walk and I'm sure they would be able to appreciate how much enjoyment the participants get from the sessions. You never know, they might even decide to come and volunteer. A few minutes from home, out in the fresh air, being part of a caring community that makes a real difference to people's lives - what could be better?

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 7:33 PM

To: Councillor Paul Baker <cldr.paul.baker@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Garth Barnes <cldr.garth.barnes@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Graham Beale <cldr.graham.beale@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Jackie Chelin <cldr.jackie.chelin@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Tony Oliver <cldr.tony.oliver@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Julie Sankey <cldr.julie.sankey@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Glenn Andrews <cldr.glenn.andrews@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Adrian Bamford <cldr.adrian.bamford@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Bernard Fisher <cldr.bernard.fisher@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Paul McCloskey <cldr.paul.mccloskey@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Emma Nelson <cldr.emma.nelson@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Martin Horwood <cldr.martin.horwood@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Diggory Seacome <cldr.diggory.seacome@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Simon Wheeler <cldr.simon.wheeler@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Barbara Clark <cldr.barbara.clark@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Councillor Izaak Tailford <cldr.izaac.tailford@cheltenham.gov.uk>; Democratic Services (CBC) <democratic.services@cheltenham.gov.uk>

Subject: Losing a vital facility for Cheltenham disabled people - Planning meeting 18/4/24

Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Councillors

Our daughter, [REDACTED] goes to the Goals beyond Grass (GBG) cycle session at Belmont school, Cheltenham, on a Sunday afternoon. This is run by a physiotherapist and several volunteers. There are specialist bikes and trikes available. Because of [REDACTED] many [REDACTED] she can only ride a specialist bike. It always takes her a long time to get used to an activity, but she has improved immensely over the time she has been attending and because of the weekly cycling she is no longer wearing a huge metal hip brace, because her hips are now much stronger. This is due to the hard work of everybody involved both during, after and prior to the session. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are very pleased with the improvement in her physical health and say that she must keep up the cycling. As well as the physical benefits, [REDACTED] loves the session and it is easy to see how much she enjoys it.

There is nowhere else in Cheltenham to ride these very specialist bikes and [REDACTED] will never be able to ride a normal bike or ride on a road. The bikes are very expensive, and it has taken GBG a long time to build up the fleet of bikes and maintain them. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] |

have seen volunteers help to get people out of the car, and then the person is pushed in their wheelchair to a bike and then they thoroughly enjoy the session. [REDACTED]
rehabilitation after [REDACTED]

Unfortunately, many disabled people are excluded from general society. [REDACTED]

The lady who runs the session has been nominated as a changemaker at Active Gloucestershire, for recognition of her work to support the health and happiness of local residents through physical activity. These residents of Cheltenham need her Sunday sessions at Belmont School to continue.

It is so important to keep this group going on a Sunday afternoon for 2 hours. It is a very quiet group, the only noise I heard today was from a local football group, they were playing at Bournside School which is separate from Belmont .

I am writing to ask for your support to keep this precious activity going on a Sunday afternoon. There is a planning application 23/00117/FUL Belmont School Cheltenham. The planning officer is recommending cessation of any sporting activity on Sundays.

With the awful state of the NHS at present, where it's almost impossible to get physiotherapy etc., it is even more important that this session continues. The disabled are often a silent group and very vulnerable and it is unfair to stop their activity. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] cycling today with her support worker - Sunday 14th April 2024



Kind regards

[REDACTED]
42 Fairfield Parade
Cheltenham
GL537PJ

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Case Officer: Mrs Lucy White

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: 42 Fairfield Parade Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL53 7PJ

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Other

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I was fortunate to be able to attend the residents meeting at Belmont school at 4pm April 10th 2024. As with all things of this nature, irrespective of which side one finds oneself, it's always a more complete experience when one can hear all arguments and concerns. My [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] who is a member of the only external organisation to use Belmont's ad hoc cycling offering on Sundays, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

They all share something in common, the opportunity to use a current ad hoc facility that helps them maintain some form of physical fitness, or accessing the community, or support to a programme of rehabilitation following an unpredicted medical event.

There are no loud coaching instructions, no supporting crowds cheering at pitch, no prolonged screaming and shouting for one's team to succeed. Just a small group of people who have found themselves fortunate to have a hard fought, hard won opportunity to be able to take part and improve their situations.

As all such facilities of which there is a dearth, they need to be safe, accessible and affordable. The Goals Beyond Grass group have been able to provide such a facility as an external group using the Belmont School grounds.

I have seen from some recommendations, that the single use Sunday usage of Belmont School is to be ceased to appease the fear that excessive noise will feature should this small group retain their access to Belmont School once the new BCS Project has completed. As the Goals Beyond Grass group are the only group both now and in the future who would be using Belmont on

Sundays, the only people who will suffer for those who make very little noise and who provide a facility for those who may one day find themselves looking for such a facility and group to support their own rehabilitation needs or that of their children or grand children.

I urge the planning committee to be broad in their deliberations if there intends to be any embargoes on Sunday usage of the Belmont present and future facilities. For reference, the group meets for 2 hours only, between 2pm and 4pm each Sunday.