

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: 17 Cadbury Close Hucclecote Gloucester GL3 3UJ

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Other

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I'd like to add my voice of concern about the suggested restrictions imposed on the planned sports facilities to be developed at Belmont School.,

[REDACTED]

I discovered accessible cycling through an NHS big health check day in Gloucester and quite frankly have not looked back. I started small by attending the sessions at Gloucester Athletic track, borrowing a trike over the Covid crisis which meant I could exercise. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Since then I've taken part in the Invictus games selection camps and completed in 3 disability friendly triathlons and encourage others to try out disability sport.

Last year I took part in the RBL Poppy Ride, Ride London 30 and the Princes Trust Palace to Palace 45-mile ride raising money and awareness of the Princes Trust and the Ehlers Danlos Support UK charities. I'm also now riding regularly on the new cycle path from Churchdown to Cheltenham as I now have the strength and skills to do so.

As I understand it Belmont school plan to replace a sports field that can only be used for part of

the year with bespoke sports facilities that can be used year-round by the children who are often excluded from other facilities and activities.

Part of the plan is cycle track is to provide accessible sport during the week in play times and PE sessions and for selected times at weekends and school holidays. This helps with learning new skills and building up strength and fitness.

Families living with disabilities are often squeezed out of facilities during the weekends and school holidays. Everywhere gets much busier and noisier often leading to people staying at home and getting isolated which is damaging for the physical and mental health of carers, families and whoever they are supporting.

Limiting the time to Saturday mornings is unfair. The Sunday afternoon session has been running for some time and is the time that suits the families and the people running the project. It is literally just people riding around quietly enjoying themselves. I've heard more noise from lawn mowers, cars passing by and the sports fields at the other schools in the area.

The idea that this is going to be some sort of huge sports hub going at all hours is wrong. We won't want to be playing sport/ ride trikes in the winter evenings outdoors just like most people aren't in their gardens in the dark in the winter.

I would encourage locals to visit and even have a go. The point of providing facilities for disabled people is we all benefit. They are not just nice to have. It only takes a trip to break a leg and suddenly you or your family will appreciate disabled toilets, step free access or a lift. GBG bikes could be the lifeline that turns into a new hobby as well as therapy or could just be a stepping stone in recovery from an illness or injury.

On the subject of the project being over ambitious I would take a look at what the local state and private schools offer their pupils. The sheer amount of sports facilities and recreational opportunities available to able bodied children in Cheltenham are vast. These schools also get used in school holidays by holiday camps and summer schools.

This is ambitious for children who have challenges right from the start. They deserve people to be ambitious for them too. We could have a future Paralympian in this school if they are given the chance.

Accessible cycling keeps people active and this has huge benefits for physical and mental wellbeing.

— Accessible cycling keeps people who cannot exercise in other ways active and fit. It's therapeutic and fun; this has huge benefits for anyone who finds regularly cycling difficult or impossible.

Best wishes

Accessible cycling champion

This page is intentionally left blank