

Lapstone Playing Fields Enhancements

Public Consultation

1. Introduction:

Eastleigh Borough Council and Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council held a pre-application public consultation to gather feedback and comments from the local residents on the plans and proposals for the site.

2. Methodology:

Two face-to-face consultations were held. One for service users, and another for members of the public. Invitation letters were distributed to service users on the 4th of October 2022 via email (Appendix A). Invitations to residents we distributed via a digital poster on Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council's Facebook page (Appendix B), with physical advertisement being placed on the noticeboard at Pavilion Close at the entrance of Lapstone Playing Fields.

The service users' consultation was held on Thursday, 13th of October 2022 at the Lapstone Pavilion from 18:00 – 20:00. The residents' consultation was held on Friday, 14th of October 2022 at the Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council office from 17:00 – 18:30.

At the consultations, a slideshow presentation was shown to attendees covering the background of the project, proposals, planning considerations, and approximate timescales with attendees also having the ability to view the plans for the site and pose questions.

At the residents' consultation, feedback forms were provided for residents to note their thoughts on the plans and proposals as well as informing them of their opportunity to comment on the planning application (once submitted) on the Eastleigh borough council planning website.

3. Distribution:

The service users' consultation invitation email was distributed to the three main users of the site:

- Wyvern FC
- Fair Oak Cricket Club
- Fair Oak Running Club

The advertisement for the residents' consultation was distributed via a digital poster on Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council's Facebook page which is followed by 2,268 people. An advertisement was also placed on the noticeboard at Pavilion Close at the entrance of Lapstone Playing Fields, which would serve the residents of that development.

4. Responses:

4.1 User Consultation

Representatives from Fair Oak Cricket Club and Wyvern Football Club attended the User Consultation. A summary of their views and feedback is provided below.

Fair Oak Cricket Club: As the primary beneficiary the cricket club are very extremely supportive of the proposals, highlighting the significant benefit the scheme will have in providing a home for the whole club to play and train within the parish. The plans would remove the current risks and uncertainty the club face trying to find different facilities outside of the borough for their teams to play and new proposals will enable the club to enhance their youth provision, women's provision and enhance the community cohesion of the club.

Wyvern Football Club: Wyvern FCs utilise the existing 3 football pitches at Lapstone Playing Fields every weekend and were already looking at alternative additional provision in the next 2 to 3 years as the club continue to grow. The club have been supportive of the proposals - recognising its benefit to the local cricket club - so long as they retain continuity of use of 3 pitches in the Parish as a minimum. The longer term requirements of the club were acknowledged and it was explained that the borough Council was currently commissioning a new Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS), that will specifically look at the sports facilities needs requirements for the One Horton Heath development. The club were encouraged to ensure they provided a consultation response to the PPS in due course to help understand the clubs existing requirements and growth plan so these could be fully considered in the needs assessment, and resulting onsite sports provision at One Horton Heath.

4.2 Public Consultation

In total, 16 local residents attended the public consultation on the 14th October. 2 written responses were received via the comments form. These, along with the verbal feedback received during the consultation are summarised in the table below. Full written responses can be found in Appendix C. Personal details have been removed to provide anonymity and to comply with GDPR regulations.

Themes	Summary of Content	No of replies on theme
Cricket provision	Feedback was supportive of provision of an additional cricket wicket and enhanced cricket facilities on Lapstone Playing Fields due to its potential to encourage a more comprehensive "community" culture within the club itself. A number of residents expressed their support for the enhanced facilities, with a couple of neighbours to Lapstone Playing Fields stating how nice it was seeing all the young people playing cricket at the site at the weekends.	5

Environmental implications	The loss of trees and extension of the culvert were explained, detailing the proposals to replace trees at a ratio of 3:1 and to achieve a minimum 10% biodiversity net gain to meet planning policy. Feedback was understanding of the necessity to do this to deliver the schemes outcomes and approval given to the proposed enhancements – particularly the pledge to replace trees at 3:1 ratio. for the removal of trees on the site with the knowledge that trees would be replaced on a 3:1 basis. Residents queried how long the works would take. It was explained that the main programme of works would take approximately 2 months, with a period of maintenance thereafter which wouldn't cause any additional disruption.	2
Lighting	A resident asked if the footpath would be lit and was concerned of the impact this may have on bats. It was explained to the resident that there were no proposals to provide any additional lighting as part of the scheme – to either the footpath or the playing pitches.	1
Street Furniture	A request was made for an additional bench to be included near the tennis courts, by a resident who uses the area for 'soft archery'.	1
Car Parking / Congestion on Pavilion Close	A number of residents asked whether the parking was going to be expanded as part of the scheme, with a number noting how busy it was on Sundays during the football season. It was explained to residents that increasing parking provision was not part of the proposals, but that reducing the onsite provision from 3 to 2 football pitches would help ease the current parking issues during the football season and that there was adequate capacity in the cricket season to accommodate the cars for the additional pitch.	4
Safety	Feedback was provided to suggest a net to be installed to stop cricket balls from endangering those using the football pitches, however it was explained to residents that the two sports would not take place at the same time – as is the case currently on site.	1
Maintenance	Feedback was provided to suggest undertaking maintenance work on the area between the One Horton Heath site and the tennis courts.	1

Appendix A – Service Users’ Consultation Invitation Letter

Dear Colleague,

RE: USER CONSULTATION - ENHANCEMENTS TO SPORTS PITCHES, FOOTPATHS AND LANDSCAPING AT LAPSTONE PLAYING FIELDS

As regular users of the above, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council and Eastleigh Borough Council wanted to notify you of proposals for a second cricket wicket, enhanced footways and landscaping at Lapstone Playing Fields and invite you to attend a user consultation meeting where we will provide further details on the plans.

The proposals will provide a second cricket wicket and enhanced facilities alongside the existing sporting provision on site, helping to meet a longstanding need for additional cricket provision for Fair Oak Cricket Club.

A new 1.8m wide pedestrian footpath across the site is also proposed to create a sustainable transport link between the new One Horton Heath development to the southwest of Lapstone Playing Fields, to Fair Oak village and the schools to the north.

The proposals will also deliver an enhanced landscaping scheme, which looks to deliver a minimum biodiversity net gain of 10% in line with local planning policy.

As regular users of Lapstone Playing Fields you will no doubt have questions about the proposals and how they may affect your future use of the site. Accordingly, we would encourage you to attend a user consultation meeting where we can provide more details regarding the plans, timeframes and any short- or longer-term implications for users. The user consultation meeting is to be held:

Date: Wednesday 12th October 2022

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Venue: Pavilion at Lapstone Playing Fields, Pavilion Close, Fair Oak, Eastleigh SO50 7PS

Please could you RSVP to confirm if representatives from your club/group will be attending the user group consultation by emailing mike.gilham@fairoak-pc.gov.uk by 7 October 2022, with the names of the individuals from your club/group who plan to attend.

Whilst greater detail can be provided at the meeting, we would like to reassure users that should the proposals receive planning approval, the intention is retain continuity of provision for current football, cricket and tennis users and other sporting users, as well as continuity of public access wherever possible during its delivery.

There will also be a separate “drop in” event for residents to view the proposals, with Council staff on hand to provide more details about the proposed scheme, listen to feedback and answer any questions. The public drop-in session will be held Friday 14th October, 5pm-7pm at Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council, 2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7GL.

You will of course also have the opportunity to review plans and comment on the applications once submitted via the planning application section of the Eastleigh Borough Council website.

Kind regards,

Mike

Appendix B – Residents' Consultation Invitation Poster



**Second Cricket Wicket
Lapstone Playing Fields, Fair Oak**

Please give us your thoughts and views on the creation of a second cricket wicket at the Lapstone Playing Fields, Fair Oak by attending the drop-in session advertised below. The new wicket will enhance existing sporting provision in the parish as well as providing additional provision for cricket.

**Friday 14th October
5pm - 6:30pm
Fair Oak & Horton Heath Parish Council
2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak, SO50 7GL**

Come and see the plans for the site, give your feedback, and have your questions answered!



Appendix C – Residents' Consultation Comments Form Responses

Date Received	Content
14/10/22	As a member of Fair Oak Cricket Club, I can see a huge benefit in having a 2-pitch facility on one site. We pride ourselves on being a community/family-friendly club and so to be able to encourage our juniors to stay and support the senior cricket games. I understand the need to remove trees etc. but with a commitment to replant with more than is removed then I can see the benefit. It would be a wonderful community facility.
14/10/22	- Net for football pitches - Tidy up area between OHH an the tennis courts