



Eastleigh

2 Pavilion Close, Fair Oak,
Eastleigh, Hampshire
SO50 7PS

Email: eastleighrambler@aol.com

Web Site <http://www.eastleighramblers.org.uk>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EastleighRamblers>

5 December 2022

Dear Ms. Morris,

RE PLANNING APPLICATION f/22/94174 – FAIR OAK SPORTS PAVILION, PAVILION CLOSE, FAIR OAK SO50 7PS

Thank you for your Council's email of 30 November 2022 consulting the Eastleigh Ramblers on the above planning application.

There is a right of way through the application area, Footpath No. 1b Fair Oak and Horton Heath. It does not appear to be affected by these proposals and it is located along the north side of the playing fields and is shown on the plan below in purple. There are proposals with regard to footpaths within and adjoining the playing fields but they are permissive rights of way and have no legal status and use thereof is entirely at the discretion of the landowners. Also the southern end of the southern section of the proposed path does not end on a right of way.

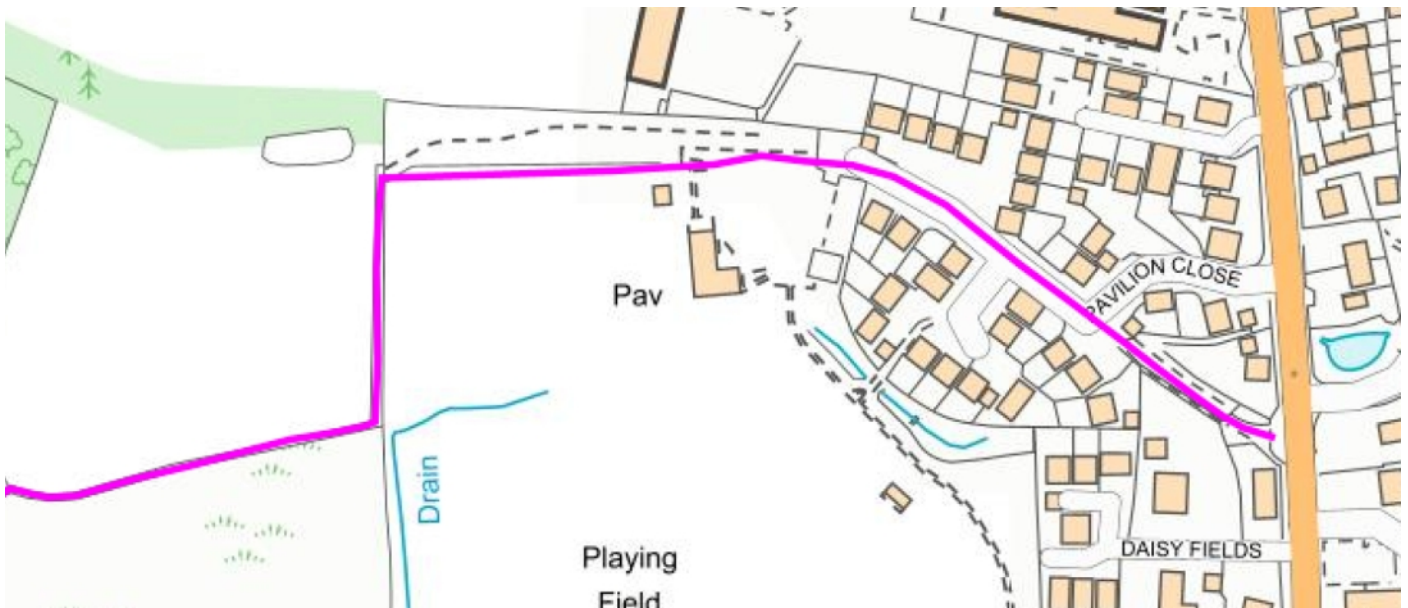
There is a proposal to fill in a wooded valley within the playing fields and the drainage plan does not address or include details of how the existence of the passage of the watercourse is to be accommodated. The watercourse starts on Knowle Hill and goes via Quobleigh Pond to the River Itchen. Below are pictures the first of the headwall where the water exits from under the playing fields and the second the point where the watercourse leaves the application area. The watercourse was diverted through the Pavilion Close development and passes through a SUDS area before entering a culvert near the seat close to the Sports Pavilion. Note that in the headwall picture to the left of the headwall there is the flow in from the drainage within the playing field to the north of the valley and this will need to be brought into any design solution. Wherever the pipes end a new headwall will be needed. There may be other connections into the valley we have not checked the whole route. As it is a watercourse the Environment Agency should be consulted.

If it is the intention to funnel children to school along the proposed route then there will be the following implications. Firstly if it is suggested that they are to go out via the car park into Pavilion Close they are more likely to use the short cut provided by the path that leads into the other arm of Pavilion Close. The Close is filled to capacity at peak times with cars parked blocking the footways on both sides making passage more difficult for pedestrians and in some cases forcing pedestrians onto the carriageway. If pedestrian traffic is to be increased by connection to One Horton Heath there needs to be clear physical arrangements to ensure safe passage for pedestrians.

The Group promotes rambling by organising 150 walks a year and protects rights of way and defends the beauty of the countryside within the Borough of Eastleigh. Registered Charity No 1093577, part of The Ramblers' Association, company limited by guarantee, registration number 4458492



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Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Richard C. Kenchington'. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Richard C. Kenchington FRICS IRRV (Hons),
Footpath Secretary, EASTLEIGH RAMBLERS

To Rachael Morris, Eastleigh Borough Council via email to rachael.morris@eastleigh.gov.uk
Copy to the Clerk Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council.

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