

Covering Statement

Planning Application APP/18/00312 at Stakes Multi Use Games Area, Springwood Avenue, Waterlooville, PO7 8BJ

The Stakes MUGA is considered to be in an unfit condition for sport and play usage in its current condition, with evidence of severe undulation and poor drainage. Initial feasibility work into the ground condition was completed by the Havant Borough Council Civil Engineering team and this produced a specification on how to improve the court condition and alleviate drainage issues. These resurfacing works are phase one of the project.

Phase two of the project is to install solar powered street lighting (as per planning app/18/00312) to light the refurbished court to allow for increased usage levels, improving residents access to a recreational sports facility.

The MUGA is open access and free to use 24/7. Communication with Springwood Community Centre adjacent to the MUGA confirms the facility is well used by individuals and families for informal football and basketball and users would like to utilise the facility further, however are hampered by current condition and the lack of lighting.

New street lighting to light the facility into evening hours will ensure residents can participate in sport and play during peak leisure time, where previously not possible. The provision of lighting ensures the safety and enjoyment for users.

The addition of lighting also allows the opportunity for local community groups to deliver formalised sports activity and Havant Basketball Club have expressed an interest in delivering sessions on a refurbished court, during early evening hours for local children.

Local ward councillors and county councillors are in support of the project due to the improved opportunity for local residents to get active.

There is a risk that if this project is not completed, the facility falls further into a state of disrepair with the potential for injury, misuse and a reduction in local facilities where residents can keep active. The aim of the project is to improve the health profile of the borough by ensuring easy access to high quality, desirable facilities.

A solar powered option is suggested to provide a green energy source. Solar lamps provide a lower ongoing maintenance cost when compared to a mains option and eliminates any utility costs. The supply and installation of solar lighting is also more cost effective.

This would be an innovative project, being the first facility of its kind within the borough to utilise green, solar powered lighting at a recreational sport facility. A positive investment that has significant health improving outcomes and a good news story for Havant Borough Council.