

HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

Response to the revised draft Honiton Sports Pitch Strategy

Allhallows (HC) This EDDC owned site is unsuitable for both sports field use and access by dogs. The Rugby Club pitches could be moved elsewhere but that would still leave use by the Community College. EDDC despite efforts has yet to demonstrate that both uses of the site can successfully co-exist. Much of the site was the sports field of Allhallows School and was purchased, at an arbitration price of £3,123 in the late 1930's when that school left Honiton, by Honiton Borough Council. It is believed it was purchased with a Government grant as playing fields and not as a public open space.

If it is considered vital for dogs to continue access to this site (p85) all sports and community college use should be accommodated elsewhere.

Subsequent to the meeting of the Town Council on 12th December, a public meeting will be held to discuss the shared use of Allhallows.

St Ritas (HB), Extension (H1) and land between Turks Head Lane and the A30T (H9) the Town Council stands by its previous comments.

Mountbatten Park (HA) The Town Council notes that proposed extensions to the pavilion would be allowed up to two storeys (p65) and continues to believe these should be single storey only due to the close proximity of the St Rita's Retreat and inadequate space being available for landscaping other than retaining the hedge.

The Former Showground (H4) would be seriously affected by the Orange Route A30T improvement due to the proposed Old A30 Link Road crossing the site. Impact by the Blue Routes would be far less. If sports use goes ahead the need to avoid light pollution in this part of the Blackdown Hills AONB would need to be taken into account.

The former Manor House School Sports Field (H5) Access: the mostly single track Cuckoo Down Lane serves very few properties and could be made subject to a one way traffic order as that would avoid lane widening and hedge loss in the AONB (p130 TC7). There are repeated mentions that sports field use should not compromise weddings/exclusive pavilion development (for example p95 2E73) and that has in turn compromised its score but Sports England objected to the planning application for weddings, etc. and that planning application, to which there were objections from nearly all of the neighbours, was withdrawn. There appear to be contradictory statements over whether revived sports field use should be temporary or long term.

The Town Council continues to ask why EDDC purchased land west of Hayne Lane (H6) in Gittisham for sports use if it is considered to be unsuitable for that purpose and why there is insufficient prominence given to the installation of a sand based pitch which would enable the Honiton Hornets hockey team to return to Honiton thereby fulfilling a promise made by EDDC when the Sports Centre in School Lane was being built and extended.

Sarah Jenkins
Deputy Town Clerk
15th December 2016