

19/10245/VAR Athletics Track, Dauntsey's School.

West Lavington Parish Council is supportive of the school and appreciates the benefits of the track to both the school and the local and wider communities. It is also very appreciative of the efforts the school has made to address the grounds of the previous refusal. However by a clear majority the council voted to recommend refusal of the application in its present form for the reasons indicated below:

1. This current application remains in conflict (contrary to the stated views of the applicant) with our made Neighbourhood Plan as the location is covered by the Plan and subject to its policies including NE2 "Development should respect views into and out of the two villages and be designed to integrate well with its surroundings". It is also in breach of core policies 51 and 57 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and national planning framework.
2. A clear majority of councillors felt that the main objections from residents ie the red colour of the track and the railings were still a matter of concern. It would continue to have an unacceptable adverse impact on the character and appearance of the area and impact on views from nearby public rights of way and that in the words of the planning committee "even when mature the proposed planting would not be able to adequately mitigate the adverse impacts".
3. Ideally, the colour of the track should be changed to green, but the parish council understands that this would be an unreasonable request, and as a compromise it would propose that an undertaking be given that when the track is refurbished in 8-10 years' time, that the colour should be changed.
4. Having considered the changes proposed in this current application, increased planting, landscaping and the painting of the white fence, it was agreed that the council would wish to see the railings removed, although a section could be retained (if painted) for the safety of the spectator area at the "finish". The school had produced two samples of fencing painted mid grey and yellow grey (either of which was acceptable) to aid our discussion.
5. The planting should include a greater number of, and more mature, trees to make an instant impact, as well as planting a mainly evergreen hedge around the hill side of the track, as is already around the existing artificial courts. A strict time line for planting to be established and consideration on the impact of such planting on local nearby houses. The red Ds of the track may still be seen from slightly higher elevations but with judicious planting the impact may be reduced. Offers from the school to remedy if residents spot a "gap" in the planting were welcomed.

Concerns expressed by the school regarding vermin (evidence?) could be lessened by making the perimeter fence to the site more robust.

Application form error – section 6 – the site **can** be seen from a public road, public footpaths, and bridleway.

Turley's Planning Design and Access Statement shows a difference between drawing MCA MUK1801-02 and sections 2.9, line 4 and section 3.3 line 5 - discus cage is shown as inside the track, long/triple jump as outside the track lanes.

In summary:

Whilst opposing the application for the above reasons the council in principle strongly supports the provision of these sports facilities and is keen to work further with the school to develop the existing excellent relationship with a view to reaching a compromise solution acceptable to all concerned.

WLPC 8th December 2019