

## **Millom Leisure – Planning Consultation Comment Responses.**

### **13 January 2025**

#### Sport England Comments

All Weather Pitch – The AWP is currently being resurfaced under permitted development. The drawings have been amended to confirm this.

#### Infrastructure Planning Response

ATE – Applicant will review the toolkit and have a meeting with Bruce Wilkinson.

Cycle Parking – Proposed Site Plan has been updated which illustrate cycle stand location and numbers proposed. 26 spaces outside the Millom Hub and 12 spaces outside the leisure facility. This aligns with the TA. The 38 new cycle spaces replace the 28 currently provided by the existing 14 cycle hoops in the car park.

Long and short stay cycle parking - There is no short stay or long stay spaces proposed, only cycle spaces. Cycle spaces, like all parking spaces provided in the project are not enforced.

Cycle segregated routes – There is no plan to have separate segregated cycle route within the site. Space is limited due to the existing road and the level changes to the playing field. All users must negotiate shared areas and have due care and attention. Cyclists are encouraged to use the shared cycle/pedestrian path. Cyclists and pedestrian can access the new access path from the sports field, up the existing ramp to mitigate the need to traverse the car park if users want to avoid roads used by vehicles.

#### LHA Response

- Footpaths are 2m wide. Where crossings are proposed, tactile paving and zebra road markings will be utilised. A 3m wide shared surface is not possible due to the level change down to the sports field.
- The access road from the car park to the facility is as existing. This existing road is capable of servicing the building, and for emergency vehicle access.
- We are unable to move the pedestrian path and widen the carriageway over the level change area, This is due to the extensive increase in specification/scope increase required.
- Road markings have been updated/signage will be added to support the markings.

#### LLFA Response

- Please see attached response from the Engineer, Furness Partnership.

## Conservation and Design Officer Response

The proposal appears to represent quite a significant improvement in the sports facilities offered at the school, as well as improvement to the north car park.

Statement / No comment

The site is not within the conservation area, and does not contain any heritage assets. Nor do I anticipate any impact on the settings of heritage assets.

Statement / No comment

The design of the new leisure centre appears to me rather severe and industrial, though not atypical for this type of building. Due to its location, I expect there to be little visual impact from the development outside of its immediate setting.

Statement / No comment

I note that the proposal seems to entail the loss of a fair amount of the already rather limited green landscaping available within the school campus. This may particularly change the appearance around the main entrance, and to those passing by on Salthouse Road, where the removal of the bungalow's garden and its partial replacement with an extension to the car park will partially de-green this area.

The loss of green space is directly correlated with the increase in parking to meet the needs of the schools and public using all the facilities on the campus. However, the scheme will enhance soft landscaping throughout by 10% biodiversity net gain.

No change to design proposed.

I appreciate that two small additional areas of planting are proposed within the car park, partially mitigating this, but wonder if the replacement planting could go further.

As above the layout needs to provide sufficient parking and allow for school bus movements. Planting has been maximised in these areas and taken into account with BNG.

No change to design proposed.

Soft landscaping could also be used to soften the appearance of the new building. My thinking here is how it will be experienced by the students and staff at the school. Though the facilities will undoubtedly be an enhancement, the visualisations provided in the design and access statement suggest the experience of moving around the building will be mainly one of tarmac, railings and pale grey/green cladding.

The building is located to the rear of the school and any green retained or proposed in the layout will enhance the entrance. Movement around the building externally will be limited due to the Northern elevation being the only one accessible to the general public, E, S and W are all within the school boundary and have limited public access (3g pitch users only will have sight and access across it to use the pitch).

No change to design proposed.

I wonder whether the potential of soft landscaping has been explored as far as it could?

Soft landscaping has been explored as far as it could, and the project will achieve 10% BNG.

No change to design proposed.

Hard landscaping could also be made more varied and lively. Currently, it appears to consist of light grey tarmac, dark grey tarmac, or poured concrete, however areas of natural stone paving can really improve the feel of such a place.

There is very little new hard surfacing proposed in the new development. The access and area in front of the new building are already existing tarmac and is predominantly shared surface with vehicles and/or cycles. There is no proposal to remove existing hard services and replace it with alternative hard landscaping.

The new hardstanding areas are, the service yard which is fenced in, and the perimeter footpaths to the rear which is not accessible to the public.

There is no natural stone paving proposed in these locations and would not be suitable.

No change to design proposed.

Similarly, timber cladding could be used in certain areas to give the exterior a warmer and higher quality appearance. This could particularly make the entrances more appealing, or other areas where high footfall passes near to the building.

The materials have been selected for durability to reduce ongoing maintenance costs. Timber cladding is not proposed to be specified.

No change to design proposed.

The ramped access on the south side is particularly unattractive, enclosed by a mass of railings and hard, grey surfaces, however this hardness and greyness extends to the whole immediate context. There is a lack of joyfulness and playfulness to the scheme's external appearance.

This area is within the school boundary so not publicly accessible unless they have booked the 3g pitch out of school hours. Paths and ramps are required to manage the level changes and have significantly reduced from previous design stages.

No change to design proposed.

Is there an opportunity to use the levels where the ramped access is on the south side to create a generally more attractive area where people could gather? Its location might be a good sun trap on summer days, and a place from which to observe the outdoor pitch. Currently, it feels like a back of house, underutilised and providing a functional and visual "dead spot" dividing the north and south sides of the area between the new building and the sports pitch.

As above this area is within the school boundary and not publicly accessible. The landscaping will be enhanced to meet the requirements of the BNG assessment.

No change to design proposed.