

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Local Access Forum

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http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/prow_local_access_forum.htm

RBWM Local Access Forum Fast Response Team

Consultation Response: Planning Application No. 11/02258 – Change of use to horse paddock/public open space/allotments/parking.

The Local Access Forum (LAF) Fast Response Team have examined the above planning application and make the following comments on behalf of the Forum:

Footpath width

As this is a council owned site, we would expect any new footpath provided to be given definitive status with a minimum width of 2m. Surfacing should be soft/informal in keeping with public open space status.

As cyclists will be using the new route, the width will need to be a minimum of 3m with open access at both exits as currently exists.

Proposed link to Maidenhead Footpath 75

Agreement will need to be obtained from NT (owners of North Town Moor) for the proposed link to Maidenhead Footpath 75 (existing route of the Green Way) It is unlikely that permission will be given for any type of surfaced path across the NT which is common land.

Buffer zones

The plan makes no provision for the 8m buffer zone along the stream which is a standard requirement of the EA.

Brick footbridge

The plan omits to show the brick footbridge across the stream to the small housing site on Blackamoor Lane. This could provide a pleasant traffic free route for residents to access the Green Way as well as the public open space.

Parking spaces

The provision of 12 parking places plus turning area for 12 allotment holders is excessive. It is unlikely that all 12 allotment owners will be on site at the same time. As 12 sheds are to be provided, owners will not need to transport heavy tools on all visits.

Preferably the allotments should be allocated to residents living in the near vicinity who should be expected to walk/cycle to the site. The car park spaces should be reduced to a maximum of six but preferably lower.

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Car Park surface

The car park is located close to the stream in an area known to flood. The surface of the car park needs to be permeable.

Pasture space for horses

The pasture will deteriorate quite rapidly if overstocked especially by horses. Horse pastures need careful management if they are to be kept even in reasonable shape. An acre for a horse seems reasonable but will still need managing especially during feeding in the winter and also around the gateways. If there are any more horses for any length of time the land will end up poached and damaged.

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.