**From:** Tim Screen   
**Sent:** 02 April 2015 17:41  
**To:** Andrew Lewis  
**Cc:** Jon Brewin  
**Subject:** 15/00153/REM - Upper Heyford Village Green

Andy

Further to consideration of the landscaping proposals enclosed.

Cricket Facility

In considering the contents of Sport England’s letter of 19 March 2015

*‘The proposed development will give rise to a conflict between the use of the village green for cricket and the neighbouring uses, particularly housing. Cricket balls commonly travel in excess of 70m at all levels of ability. Therefore, a cricket ball landing on adjoining property is likely to be a relatively common occurrence in this location. The cricket club would be liable for damage to property and personal injury.’*

And it goes on the say:

*‘In the current application, no mitigation measures have been proposed to address the risk of cricket balls leaving the site.’*

In light of this and the lack of facilities, pavilion etc.  I would suggest that cricket facility is deleted in favour of a flexible, informal recreational green open space. This would mean that the unnecessary and costly (and abortive works) cricket square would be unnecessary. However drainage system may still be required for the open space, due the compaction associated the ‘engineered’ layering of subsoil and topsoil. A drainage engineer should be consulted and a specification of construction required on the reinstatement of the POS an acceptable grassed surface.  At present there are vast quantities of hard standing and builder rubble/ recycling hard-core operations that exacerbate compaction and bad drainage.

We have previously advised that the road the west is relocated to allow the cricket outfield areas to increase to a size appropriate for a cricket outfield, in accordance with SE guidelines. Because this will not be achieved the area is deemed to be inappropriate for cricket and A2 Dominion need to find another location for a facility as this.

LAP

The play opportunities afforded by the proposal are limited. I require at least three different pieces of play equipment with associated wet pour/circulation areas.

The ascot rail boundary requires a sympathetic planting scheme to visually soften the fencing.

Footway Layout

The footway design and trapezoidal seating area are not going to function successfully. Unwanted desire lines will occur as people cut across the grass near to the trees resulting in ground compaction and drainage problems to trees (with the possibly of vandalism). I recommend that the path system is changed in accordance with the hand drawn sketch – see enclosed. A no-dig footway construction is required with the RPAs of the existing retained group of trees. The seat area is located on the central axis of the playing field and should be a perfect rectangle.

Landscaping

Additional trees are required to reinforce the existing group to the southwest. Proposed locations and species are to be submitted.

Regards.

Tim

Tim Screen CMLI   
**Landscape Architect**   
    
Environmental Services   
Cherwell District and South Northants District Councils   
Ext. 1862   
Direct Dial 01295 221862   
Fax 01295 263155   
<mailto:tim.screen@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk>   
[www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell-dc.gov.uk/) [www.southnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk)