**From:** Tim Screen   
**Sent:** 03 November 2017 11:34  
**To:** Andrew Lewis  
**Subject:** 17/00983/REM - Parcels B4A & B4B Heyford Park Camp Road Upper Heyford

Andy

With consideration of the above development I provide the following comments (landscape proposals for the northern parcel B4B do not appear to have been included).

The LAP

They play area requires another  piece of play equipment the allows the children to experience the joy of movement through either a swing or slide. Otherwise the play area provides a rather ‘low key’ experience for children.

The position of the fencing and gates are to be shown on the landscape proposals for the purpose of explaining the context of the design. A transitional space at each entrance to allow for buggies and wheelchair use to ‘park’ off the busy path while the gate is opened, is essential. With two entrances off pedestrian paths I would recommend that the north entrance onto the road is deleted for the reason of reducing road accidents.

‘No dog’ signs are to be installed into surface paving at each entrance

The Prunus lusitanica hedge is toxic and can be harmful if eaten……….it produces black berries. I recommend this hedge is replaced in favour of a hornbeam hedge, Carpinus betulus. The change of hedge will create a more distinct area from the rest of the development. Or replace the entire development’s P. lusitanica hedge with a non-toxic Taxa (but no Buxus sp/Box because of box blight).

There is a toxin in Hyperium perforatum, and consider its relative H. ‘Hidcote’ to be of equal risk. Therefore delete this plant in favour of a non- toxic Taxa.

Fatsia japonica has mild toxicity, according to Elizabeth A. Dauncey’s *Poisonous Plants A guide for parents and childcare providers*. This plant produces attractive berries and so I think it is prudent to replace this plant.

Indicate the position of the play area fencing and gates – it is not clear from the landscape proposals.

The variety –(and therefore perceptual experience) of plants needs to be increased for children’s benefit. Ornamental grasses are to be included for the enjoyment of movement and sound.

Plants – general

Camelia japonica is acid loving and will suffer from chlorosis with this alkaline soil. To be deleted in favour of the plant more appropriate to the soil conditions.

The reflected heat from hard surfaces in urban areas cause the leaves of Sorbus aucuparia  to scorch. Replace with Amelanchier lamarkii.

Tree Grill

Because all the trees are to be planted in soft areas tree grills are unnecessary on B4A. Arboresin permeable surface is preferred over tree grills.

Tree Planting Specification

The tree plant specification should be updated to take account of *BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape – Recommendations.*

Please let me have your questions on the above matters.

Regards.

Tim

**Tim Screen** CMLI

**Landscape Architect**

Cherwell District & South Northants Councils

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