

FRITWELL PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

James Kirkham
Planning Officer
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote
Banbury

Secretary,
Fritwell Playing Field Committee,
68 East Street,
Fritwell,
OX27 7QF

20thth October 2019

Dear Mr. Kirkham,

Re: Planning Application 19/00616/OUT. OS Parcel 9507 South of 26 and Adjoining Fewcott Road Fritwell

Fritwell Playing Field Committee has no objections to the above planning application, however it considers that a development of this size warrants significant mitigation or benefits accruing to the village, its organisations and its residents. It is pleased to note, therefore, that the Village Hall will receive Section 106 funding. It would also suggest some form of traffic calming measures to make access to the Playing Field safer for existing users and potential users from the development.

The Committee is very disappointed, however, to note that significant amounts of the Outdoor Sports section of the Recreation and Leisure funding have been allocated to projects in Bicester, six miles away. This is particularly disappointing when Fritwell has its own playing field and sports facility in desperate need of funding for its own project to improve and extend outdoor sport and leisure opportunities for local people. The supporting documents for the application state that Mr. Forrester “used the recommendations listed in the 2018 Cherwell Sports Study for the Bicester Sub Area in the vicinity of the project” to determine where funding for Outdoor Sports should be allocated, and in the absence of knowledge of our plans, this is understandable. It is only since April of 2019 that the Playing field Committee has been more proactive about improving facilities for Fritwell.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of this local project and how it can be achieved with the help of allocation of Section 106 Recreation and Leisure funding for Outdoor Sports. I know you and Mr. Forrester are already in receipt of our first draft proposal for the future, but you might also like to consider the following points:

- The Playing Field Committee is the only organization providing opportunities for outdoor play and sports in Fritwell and is a completely separate entity from the Village Hall Committee.
- It is totally self- funding, relying on its own fundraising activities to provide for any maintenance work or updates

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Secretary: Helen Metcalfe, 68 East Street, Fritwell, Oxon OX27 7QF

- The Playing Field is the venue for Heyford Park Football Club, which has 10 youth teams. This means that over 460 young people use the site at some point during the week, either for matches or training.
- Fritwell Scouts have their meeting place on the playing field catering for 60-70 young people. Very often their siblings use our facilities while dropping off or collecting Scouts or Beavers.
- Scouts run an archery group catering for 15-20 per week, plus their siblings.
- Fritwell Primary School parents use our car park when dropping off or collecting children from school. This means that the children's playground is usually full at the end of the school day.
- A Fitness Club use the ground for training, around 50 users per week.
- The equipment is in constant use by families, particularly in the summer, for play and leisure.
- The field has been used for the past three years as a venue for the Front Row Festival. Whole families have come and children and young people have been able to play safely on the equipment and all weather surface within the sight of parents enjoying the music. Last year's climbing wall was particularly successful.

You will see that our amenity is very well used already, but following a questionnaire sent to all residents, the Committee is looking to make it even more so. We aim to provide new and updated play equipment to include climbing systems and a zip wire more suited to a wider age range. In addition we aim to contribute to the health and fitness of slightly older residents by providing outdoor gym equipment or a fitness trail. This is our project for the next five years that could seriously benefit from Section 106 funding.

We are not yet in a position to furnish you with detailed plans and costings but we are in the process of doing so. Meetings with playground equipment providers are due to take place by the end of October, following which we will have more information on what is possible and how much funding we will need to raise, for example by applying for grants. A contribution from Section 106 Recreation and Leisure (Outdoor Sports) funding would be a perfect start to the project and mean that we might be able to promote health, fitness and outdoor leisure pursuits for all ages much sooner than we had anticipated.

I note from the supporting documents related to the planning application that Mr. Forrester would be "...more than happy to receive more examples of more localized projects..." so hope that Fritwell Playing Field Committee's plans will meet with approval and so attract some Section 106 funding for Outdoor Sports.

Yours sincerely

Helen Metcalfe
Secretary,
Fritwell Playing Field Committee