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Subject: St Mary's School Multiple Use Games Area - CIL funding

To: Piers Mason <PMason@tandridge.gov.uk>

Cc: Louise Round <lround@tandridge.gov.uk>, Kathy O'Leary <koleary@tandridge.gov.uk>

Dear Mr Mason

I write as a Councillor for the Oxted North and Tandridge ward to ask the Council to reconsider its decision to refuse CIL funding for the Multiple Use Games Area (MUGA) at St Mary's Junior School in Silkham Road, Oxted.

I have met with school staff working on this project and would like to update the Council on the position regarding the MUGA and also to explain why the reasons for refusal given in the Planning Policy Committee papers of 16 November 2017 are no longer appropriate:

1. Owing to a tenacious fund raising campaign, St Mary's School is now asking for only £40,000 towards the project. The papers state that CIL funding of £143k was being sought but this is incorrect and the original request was for £59,957. This has now been reduced to £40,000.
2. The application meets all three of the Council's stated CIL priorities which are education, health, and flood mitigation. The first two I believe are self-evident, the third is met because the existing play area cannot be used for most of the year due to flooding.
3. The papers state that the school's bid for funding "does not address capacity issues" but this is incorrect. The school is due to merge with Downs Way School in September 2018 and is being expanded because additional capacity is required by Surrey County Council at Junior level due to the effects of development (Downs Way Infant School having already increased capacity at infant level) . The Junior part of the merged school will have 480 places at Junior level which is a 120 place expansion. The merged Primary school will accommodate 660 pupils when full. The additional sports facility will be essential to provide adequate sports facilities for the increased pupil numbers, as well as providing essential playground space.
4. This facility is absolutely crucial to the health and well-being of children attending the school. The project is not to improve the current provision – it would be the only playing area provision available for most of the year. Not to provide it jeopardises children's health. Children's health is a Government priority. Tandridge already has a higher than average rate of obesity in its young people. It is intended that the MUGA will provide a playground large enough for a netball court therefore encouraging girls' and women's sports, something Sport England has recently campaigned for.
5. Provision of this facility will be a major community asset as it will be available to local sports organisations and groups throughout the area. The school has put in place a plan to ensure the MUGA will be available at evenings, weekends and during the school holidays. St Mary's has had positive feedback and support from the local governing bodies of various sports in the locality of the proposal. All these clubs report that there is a lack of outside

sports facilities in the area, preventing them from expanding. The MUGA would enable them to expand their numbers and increase participation in sports, particularly for the 8+ age group. The school has been supported in developing the facility by Active Surrey. The facility would also be used by disability groups.

In summary, the St Mary's bid meets all of the Council's priorities for CIL funding, the project is crucial to the health and well-being of pupils and it would also be a hugely valuable community resource.

I look forward to receiving your confirmation that the bid for funding of £40,000 is accepted by the Council.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Jackie Wren
Oxted North and Tandridge