

DRAFT West Liss Recreation Ground Design Brief R. Hargreaves, April 2022

Various recreation proposals for the use of parts of the West Liss Recreation Ground are currently being considered. This is an outline brief intended to give initial guidance on how to develop the area.

1. Context. Liss is within the National Park which promotes landscape beauty but also the provision of recreation. This is reflected in the Liss Neighbourhood Plan which seeks to enhance community life, including through sports provision but also seeks to enhance the green and open character of the village.
2. The recreation ground currently provides a large open area with uninterrupted views across it. It is particularly important in maintaining an open and low density feel to Station Road, a major through route within the village, and giving a feeling of separation between the village centre and West Liss. Any development should substantially maintain a large open area, views across the recreation ground, and its semi-rural character, particularly through the appropriate scale and design and general look of equipment and facilities.
3. Adjoining the recreation ground are residential properties in St Marys Road and facing the area along Station Road and to a lesser extent properties affected in Hawks Mead. Any development should avoid impacts on these properties. These include visual impact, both scale and appearance, noise, distracting movements and lighting. The acceptable distance between development and adjoining properties will depend on the nature and scale of each development. Mitigating factors could include screening and limits on the time of activities.
4. The impact of lighting provision, not just on adjoining properties, but on the character of the open space and the Dark Skies policy of the National Park must be considered..
5. The various proposals are intended to serve different groups and ages. Social interaction of differing age groups is generally to be encouraged, while mitigating possible conflicts over noise, visual impact and disturbance.
6. Access arrangements for activities which do not adjoin Station Road need to be considered, including the provision of disabled access and for children's buggies.
7. Parking is very restricted on the recreation ground, and on Station Road. There is little opportunity for the provision of more car parking spaces and proposals need to consider how the demand for parking can be mitigated.
8. Biodiversity provision should be made, in conjunction with proposals and in the spaces between, both for its biodiversity value and also the opportunities it can give for softening visual impact and providing screening.