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Sent: 22 March 2021 10:36

Subject: RE: Ottershaw East pre-app and Food production/play space

My sincere apologies for taking so long to reply to your email below, its been sitting in my in box for some time – I hope the following comments are still of some use.

My initial thought is that the natural play facilities might be better placed closer to the development, so maybe where the community orchard is. In terms of size of play provision, I would leave this to Planners to assess whether the applicant has satisfied policy requirements. The LAP which is very close to an existing property, should be re-located, I would suggest towards the centre of the development. The LEAP is probably ok where it is, but as you suggest, might be better placed in a more central location where it would be easily accessible by all and afforded some informal surveillance. In terms of the equipment, the use of more natural materials is preferred although metal equipment is more robust and has longer life-span so can be justified in some circumstances.

I agree with your thoughts on food production – a mix of allotments and a community orchard would be a good way forward. But you really need to provide vehicular access to allotments, so that ploholders can easily bring materials and tools onto site. We would suggest around 20 x 5 rod (125m2) allotment plots would a good target.

In terms of future management of the play space, SANGS and allotments, we wouldn't necessarily be seeking to take these on, but would be happy to consider this if a suitable sum of money was paid to us by the developer to cover maintenance costs for a substantial period of time.

I hope that helps and apologise again for the delay.

Regards

Head of Green Space | Runcyede Borough Council