



Horsham District Council

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Directorate of Community Development and Leisure Services
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Our Ref:	CHD/SAF CDLS	Your Ref:	
E-Mail:	Chris.dier@horsham.gov.uk	Direct Line:	01403 215250
If calling please ask for:	Chris Dier	Date:	9 th August, 2006

Dear Mr. Steele,

Chesworth Farm

Thank you for your letter dated 7th August, 2006.

Over the past two weeks, I have received a number of communications from residents in this part of Horsham commenting on an idea/series of ideas that have at this stage, only been informally discussed between Council Members and Officers.

It would appear that some informal communication has been made to local residents and it is important that I put this in some context.

At this stage, this is only a preliminary suggestion and one that will receive considerable consultation before making any final decisions. Over recent years, it has become increasingly clear that the local junior football leagues are unable to cope with the demand for junior/youth football facilities. In trying to resolve this demand, junior clubs have been looking for every available possibility to provide more pitches, and it has been suggested that Chesworth Farm could assist in providing a part-solution to this problem. The proposal is to use only a relatively small percentage of the overall open space, to use it only during the months September to April and to restrict use to approx 4/5 hours per week. Access to the site is not straightforward and two options have been suggested, one from the track that leads from Queensway in the town, an alternative, by way of the YMCA football ground.

Furthermore, the Council has to give careful consideration to a range of issues relating to our property and land portfolio. In addition, we have to ensure that a balance is achieved between the vast range of leisure interests pursued by our residents. Whilst I understand the requirements of those who pursue informal activities such as walking, we do also have to provide opportunities for more organised activity, team games, etc.

Mr. John Steele,
Chairman,
The Horsham Society,
2 Old Denne Gardens,
Horsham,
West Sussex. RH12 1JA



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In terms of consultation, we are currently preparing a comprehensive management plan for the Chesworth site, and will be making this available for public comment in the Autumn.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C.H. Dier', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

C.H. Dier,
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LEISURE SERVICES