

DM/25/2195

**Landscaping improvement at Ansty Recreation Ground,
Deaks Lane, Ansty**

Sustainability Statement

Policy DP39: Sustainable Design and Construction

This Sustainability Statement has been prepared in support of the above planning application in accordance with Policy DP39 of the Mid Sussex District Plan. The policy requires development proposals to seek to improve sustainability where appropriate and feasible, having regard to the nature, scale and location of the development.

Nature of the Development

The proposed scheme predominantly comprises the installation of land drainage infrastructure and the repair and improvement of an existing access track within an established recreation ground. The development does not involve the construction of new buildings, the creation of new residential or commercial floorspace, or the introduction of energy- or water-intensive uses.

Given the limited and functional nature of the works, many of the measures listed within Policy DP39—particularly those relating to building energy efficiency, renewable or low-carbon energy generation, communal heating networks and internal water consumption standards—are not applicable. Sustainability considerations have therefore been addressed in a proportionate manner, focusing on the elements relevant to the proposal.

Energy and Resource Use

The proposal will not result in any material increase in operational energy demand. The repair of the existing access track represents an efficient use of land and resources, avoiding additional land take and reducing the need for more extensive future maintenance. Where practicable, existing materials will be retained or reused in the repair of the maintenance track, with replacement materials (e.g. Type 1 aggregate) kept to a minimum, and selected for durability and longevity.

Water Management, Drainage and Flood Risk

Water management is a central component of the proposal. The installation of land drainage is intended to improve surface water management, reduce waterlogging and enhance the long-term resilience and usability of the recreation ground.

Flood risk and drainage matters are addressed under Policy DP41. The District Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (June 2015) identifies no specific flood risk issues in and around Ansty. A Flood Risk Assessment is being undertaken by Unda Consulting Limited to

confirm that the proposed works will not increase flood risk elsewhere and that appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated.

The drainage strategy will follow the Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) hierarchy, with a preference for infiltration and attenuation where feasible, in accordance with local ground conditions and groundwater considerations.

Climate Change Adaptation

By improving land drainage and maintaining safe and reliable access via the repaired track, the proposal will enhance the site's resilience to the effects of climate change, including more frequent periods of intense rainfall, without introducing additional environmental risk.

Conclusion

The proposal has been assessed against Policy DP39 in a proportionate and site-specific manner. While many elements of the policy are not applicable due to the absence of new buildings or intensive uses, sustainability principles have been appropriately incorporated where relevant, particularly in relation to water management, efficient use of existing infrastructure and climate change resilience. The proposal therefore accords with the objectives of Policy DP39 of the Mid Sussex District Plan.