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the safest hands around playgrounds

Monday, 30 May 2011

Dear Rob,

Ref. The Level, Wheeled Sports Area

With reference to our recent discussions concerning the above project please find following my comments and assessment concerning the design of the area.

Considering the overall design of the open space the Wheeled Sports Area is located well within the boundaries of the open space and this would preclude the need to provide fencing for safety purposes as there is no opportunity to ride from the Wheeled Sports Area directly onto the surrounding roads.

The design of the open space also clearly delineates this area of activity from the surrounding areas and again this negates the need for a fence to segregate the Wheeled Sports Area from other sections of the park as any users or pedestrians coming into or close to the area will have adequate opportunity to view the type of activity on-going at the time.

Finally concerning this aspect the depth of the bowls around the perimeter of the Wheeled sports Area is such that in most instances there is only a step down of 10cm; once again this negates the need for the area to be fenced off as an indication to passers-by that there is some hazard to avoid.

With regard to the design of the Wheeled Sports bowl I do have some concerns that users will tend to use all available surfaces as 'grinding blocks' and I think with the current design of raised flower beds and a raised perimeter to the area one would certainly expect to see evidence of 'unauthorised grinding' very quickly. If this aspect of the design could be given some further thought I think it would be beneficial.

I would strongly recommend the provision of adequate litter bins to try and ensure that day to day litter was controlled as far as possible, and benches for spectators who tend to gather in these areas; if possible within the budgets available to you the provision of some shelter should also be given consideration.

With regard to risk; there is of course always some risk of injury to users of this type of facility and to a large extent it is accepted by the users that bumps and bruises and even the occasional broken limb are to be expected. Based on the design we have and the amendments discussed above I would assess the risk as Low or Very Low.

I have attached a document which discusses Challenge & Hazard which I trust will give an insight into the reason why the development of this type of facility is important to the community.

Yours sincerely

Keith Dalton
Managing Director



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