

Chorleywood Play Space Advisory Committee

Verbal submission on behalf of Friends of Chorleywood House Estate

15 October 2015

Please recognise that the tone and style of this script is that of a spoken presentation rather than a written submission

I ask for 2 minutes 15 seconds of your time. We are aware that we are the only body who has not yet submitted written reports to this committee. This is not due to lack of interest but:

- *Initially*, we chose to wait to hear the evidence and arguments from all parties involved **before** forming an opinion.
- We consist of a wide variety of members and regular volunteers, many of whom are active in other estate management, woodland management and conservation groups. Because of this wide range of interests, we have a general consensus rather than a unanimously supported position.
- We feel less 'threatened' by the proposal and have not felt it necessary to submit detailed evidence to 'defend' the site we represent.
- Finally, as a group who enhances and protects our natural resources, especially trees, we wished to avoid felling any more trees for paper reports.

Our position, although of consensus rather than unanimous is:

1. We understand that Chorleywood House Estate represents the site of least resistance.
2. There are several environmental, ecological and safety issues that CWHE share with the other sites but most can be, at least partially, mitigated. For example;
 - if root disturbance is the issue - the precise site could be moved to the other side of the tennis courts,
 - if crossing the busy A404 is the issue –a pedestrian crossing at the Common Road traffic lights and/or pelican crossing at the Parish office is *not impossible*. (*not beyond the wit of man*)
3. However, we *cannot* move the centre of population of Chorleywood closer to the estate.
4. Realistically, if the play area is sited on Chorleywood House Estate, it **will** involve driving to the site for most users. This not only limits its appeal but, (if the play area proves to be popular), is likely to require car parking facilities to be enlarged.
5. Therefore, one of the primary objectives of Three Rivers District Council (who are offering to fund this) cannot be met.
6. As one of our member so eloquently put it "*Whilst we have no specific objections, we nevertheless think it would be a b*** stupid place to put it.*"