Paper 5

Report to Ide Parish Council, 15 November 2017

Multi Use Games Area [MUGA] at Ide School

1. The Parish Council asked Barry Hookins and Rachel Herbert to meet with Sharon Tarr, Head Teacher at Ide School, to discuss the options for making the MUGA more accessible to members of the local community.

2. Fund raising for the MUGA, which was built in 2012, involved parents and school supporters. Grants and planning permission were contingent on the MUGA being available for community use [ref. SWEET access statement 2011].

3. Previous attempts to set up arrangements for booking and hiring the MUGA have been short lived, due to a combination of factors:

- The need for key holders

- A workable booking system

- Supervision arrangements for children

- Hours of availability

- Payment

4. The School and the Parish Council have noted how rarely they have been approached by individuals or groups wishing to use the MUGA: the School has not received a request to use it in the last two years. It is not clear if this is due to a lack of demand; or if the low apparent demand is a function of the lack of proper arrangements.

5. In their discussions, Sharon, Barry and Rachel established that the MUGA is available for community use. Due to the duty of care the School owes its pupils, and the fact that the MUGA and school grounds remain private property, owned by Devon County, availability will need to be subject to conditions involving the factors listed above. The Parish Council need not necessarily be involved in the arrangements. The conditions are:

-There should be a minimum of four named, authorised key holders, to be agreed by the School.

- An online booking system will need to be devised.

- Children below age [to be stated] using the MUGA must be supervised by an adult

- The MUGA will be available to members of the community outside school hours and during school holidays. It will not be available during school hours during term time.

- A modest hiring fee will be charged by the school. The possibility of the Parish Council making an annual block subscription on behalf of all residents of the village has been proposed, and met with a favourable initial response from councillors. Further consideration of this by the Parish Council would be conditional on the other arrangements set out above being agreed and in place.

6. There is, then, the outline of a potential system for community use of the MUGA. Further time and effort will be needed to agree a final system, in close liaison with the School.

7. It is recommended that, with the current low level of apparent demand, the Parish Council should look to interested groups to take on the next stage, that of agreeing and putting in place a detailed set of arrangements, in co-operation with Ide School, which fit the conditions so far agreed.

Barry Hookins

Rachel Herbert

Nick Bradley

7 Nov 2017 (final)