

Planning Statement

Introduction

This planning statement is submitted in support of the planning application for the relocation of our gymnastics club to **Units 2/3, Merrylees Industrial Estate, The Sidings, Desford, Leicester LE9 9FE**

The proposed development aims to provide a state-of-the-art facility that meets the needs of our members and complies with relevant planning policies and regulations. No changes are required to the building other than signs

Site Location and Description

The site is located in a commercial area of Desford, within an existing modern commercial complex. The unit is a single-story building with ample space to accommodate the diverse activities and equipment required for a gymnastics club. The surrounding area includes a mix of commercial and recreational uses, making it a suitable location for our facility.

Proposed Development

The proposed development involves the internal refurbishment of the existing unit to create a gymnastics club with modern facilities. This includes:

An open-plan gymnastics area with specialized flooring and equipment.

Accessible restrooms and changing facilities.

Reception and office spaces..

Bicycle racks to encourage cycling to the site.

Planning Policy Context

The proposed development aligns with the local planning policies and national guidelines, including:

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Promoting healthy communities by providing recreational facilities that contribute to the well-being of the community.

Local Plan: Supporting the development of community and recreational facilities within designated areas.

Access and Transportation

The site is well-served by public transport, including a bus link that stops nearby. Public footpaths provide direct access to Bagworth Woods, encouraging visitors to use sustainable modes of transport. However, recognizing that most members will drive or cycle, the site includes ample parking and bicycle racks to support these modes of transportation.

Design and Layout

The design of the facility focuses on accessibility, safety, and functionality:

Accessibility: The entire facility is designed to be accessible to individuals with disabilities, complying with the Equality Act 2010.

Safety: The layout ensures clear sightlines and unobstructed pathways, with appropriate safety measures in place.

Functionality: The open-plan design allows for flexible use of space, accommodating various gymnastics activities and events.

Community and Health Benefits

The new gymnastics club will provide significant benefits to the community, including:

Promoting physical health and fitness among members of all ages.

Providing a safe and supportive environment for gymnastics training and competitions.

Offering recreational opportunities that enhance the quality of life for residents of Desord and surrounding areas.

Environmental Considerations

The development includes measures to minimize environmental impact:

Encouraging sustainable transport options, such as cycling and public transport.

Conclusion

The proposed relocation of our gymnastics club to an 11,000 square foot unit in Desord will provide a valuable community facility that promotes health, fitness, and well-being. The development is in line with planning policies and guidelines, ensuring accessibility, safety, and sustainability. We respectfully request that the planning application be approved to allow us to proceed with this beneficial project.