

Heritage Statement: Proposed Children's Playground Fence

Site Context

The proposal relates to the installation of a replacement boundary fence around the children's playground located within the playing fields near the Sports Pavillion behind the village school. The site is located in designated Cobham Conservation Area.

Significance of the Conservation Area

Cobham lies in a mature landscape with traditional village centre characterised by early brick and flint and timber buildings. Located in Conservation Area.

The significance of the Conservation Area arises from its historic layout, building styles, and the contribution of open spaces that provide visual relief and support the character of the wider heritage setting.

Purpose of the Proposal

The replacement fence will assist the safety of the children's play area by providing a boundary that helps safeguard young users from errant cricket balls and footballs. The fence also aims to discourage dogs from entering, thereby maintaining a safe and hygienic environment.

Design and Materials

The design of the fence has been carefully selected to ensure it is visually compatible with the heritage setting while meeting modern safety standards. Key design principles include:

- **Material selection:** The use of high-quality metal, finished in a natural colour that complements the surrounding landscape and existing boundary treatments.
- **Scale and height:** The proposed height of the fence is 3.6 metres, to help ensure child safety from cricket balls and footballs
- **Detailing:** Simple, unobtrusive design to blend in with the Conservation Area.
- **Permeability:** A design that maintains visual openness, ensuring the playground remains integrated with the surrounding green space rather than visually isolated.

Impact on Heritage Significance

The proposal has been designed to have minimal impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. The use of sympathetic materials, appropriate scale ensures the fence integrates with the environment its situated in.

The enhancement of safety for children using the space is also consistent with the continued positive use and enjoyment of the area, supporting its ongoing social value—an important aspect of heritage significance.

Conclusion

The proposed playground fence the need for child safety with the preservation of the Conservation Area's special character. By employing sympathetic materials, maintaining visual openness, and respecting the historic context, the fence will aim to protect the safety of users while preserving the aesthetic and heritage qualities of the area. The proposal is therefore considered to sustain and enhance the significance of the Conservation Area in line with national and local heritage.

Pictures of current fence





Example of Proposed new fence

