

COUNCILLOR WARREN MORGAN

Brighton & Hove City Council
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove
BN3 2LS

Date: 27 May 2011

Our Ref: WM

Your Ref:

Dear Cabinet Members,

Re: Whitehawk Primary School Play Area

Over the past eight months Whitehawk Primary School has had new reception classrooms built at the front of their existing building, as part of the co-location project which relocates CYPT offices and Whitehawk Library to sites adjacent to the school.

A consequence of this work has been the loss of the grassed area used for school sports, activities and events. The school applied to the council to use land to the north of the school for these activities, but was told that it was housing land and that the Housing department would not release it. This is despite there being no published plans for housing development on the site.

Instead the school was given use of Environment department land opposite the school on the Heybourne Road pitches, land which was fenced off for school purposes but which cannot be locked as it remains public land. Members of the public now use the fenced off area for exercising dogs, meaning that there are always high levels of dog fouling within the fence.

To reach this area pupils must cross a road and climb a steep bank. Pupils with disabilities cannot access the area without a significant detour which takes in an area believed to be used by injecting drug users.

This, along with the dog fouling, means that the fenced off playing area cannot be used by the school because of the health and safety risks to pupils, accessibility and equalities issues, and the amount of staff time involved in clearing and reaching the new play area.

I am asking that consideration is given to the land immediately to the north of the school, adjacent to the new dining hall and caretaker's flat, being released by housing and fenced off for exclusive use by the school. I will provide letters of support from the school management, pupils, parents and governors (of which I am one) to support this request.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Warren Morgan

