Planning Statement - Evergreen, Greenhills Farm, Dog Lane, Ipstones Nr Leek ST10 2LP

At Evergreen School, we believe a MUGA (multi use games arena) is justified as we feel containing the children in one designated space is less disruptive for the neighbours, particularly as the space ear-marked is not in view of the neighbouring property.

Children need play amenities for their physical and emotional well being and it will be a fantastic opportunity for them to play and expemd energy and use hand eye coordination and improve their gross motor skills wilst learning social inveration with their peers.

If our children are encouraged to play all in one multi purpose built pitch it will be the least disruptive way of allowing them to flourish in the fresh air and make the most of the beautiful surrounding landscape in a supervised and appropriate manner.

When imaginatively developed, school grounds can contribute to better social and recreational interaction of the pupils. As well as contributing strongly to children's understanding of 'green' issues, they can positively impact on the sustainability of the school and its locality. It can also encourage teamwork.

The framework document Every Child Matters2 aims to ensure that every child and young person has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. It identifies five overarching outcomes that all Government departments with a vested interest in children's development should be working towards. These are:

- be healthy
- be safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being.

School grounds can play a significant role in achieving this by providing safe, stimulating environments where children can learn, explore, play and grow, regardless of their educational needs.

As a society, we recognise that our young people are offered ever fewer opportunities for safe, challenging, active and collaborative play and this is why our MUGA is so important to us. Lack of these opportunities can lead to health issues, apathy and social and behavioural issues. School grounds can help raise achievement and self-esteem, improve behaviour and help children develop a wide range of skills.

To this positive end, we hope you appreciate our request.