FULL COUNCIL: TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2026

AGENDA ITEM 17: Guide Hut – Access

1. Background

1.1 Following previous conversations during and following installation of the MUGA, the Guides had concern with the MUGA storage area. The original design was reduced at the time ensuring there was no impact on their rear access.

1.2 Advice was sought from Council's Health and Safety Advisor regarding the area. It was confirmed that the only difference to the area being the MUGA storage area. This didn't block rear door access, there were no changes to the side access areas, and it was still possible to access the farthest end of the area to the rear past the MUGA storage area. The main MUGA area occupies the same footprint as the original tennis court.

1.3 The Guides requested an access gate be placed into the wooden fencing however, our advisor noted the slope beyond the fence area specified, leads onto the busy access road into Padstow which was a concern. Concern was also raised it would become a regular short cut and increase the risk of slips and falls due to the grassed slope area. It was thought that the fence itself is low and, in an emergency, people could get over the fence if required. This was fed back at the time.

2. Latest

2.1 The Guides have been in touch further concerning this matter, should the front entrance be inaccessible and their view that the construction of the MUGA has significantly reduced the area at the back. This time they are asking of the possibility to install a gate in MUGA wire fencing.

2.2 To help Council understand the full picture Council Facilities Officer asked if they would share their fire risk assessment as it would be helpful to understand their capacity number, their muster point/s etc. The Council Facilities Officer also attended the area again.

2.3 A 'Girlguiding property risk assessment' was provided. With further clarification being given that the muster point was not to the rear, but from the front door is the Social Club via the path alongside the MUGA. It was also clear that capacity numbers were well below a occupancy limit of 60, which is the cap for any building which has one fire exit only.

2.4 From reviewing this information, confirmation on capacity, muster point and visiting the site recently there doesn't seem to be anything that would differ from previous views in this regard. However, it is worth mentioning that during the site visit by the Council Facilities Officer it was noted a potential flatter area (as per picture below – being furthest away from the Hut). It would be expected that any route would need to be cleared and maintained, which could invite use as a short cut.

2.5 Prior to the installation of the MUGA and MUGA storage area, when it was previously just the tennis courts which still had fencing, no request had been made for a rear access route.

3. Considerations

3.1 What are Council's view in this matter?