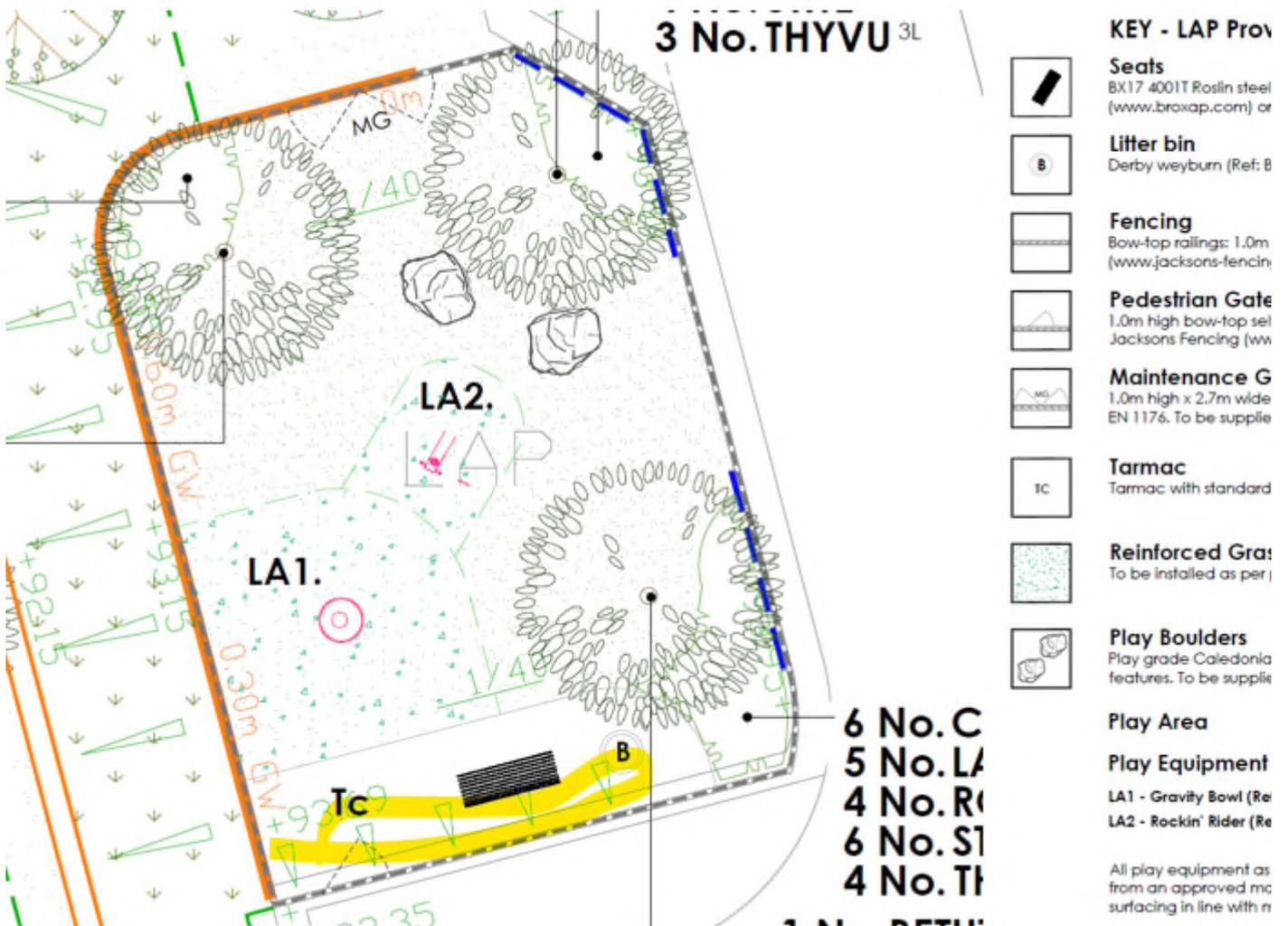


Sent: 05 December 2025 09:19

Subject: FW: Penistone Road DOC - 2025.93146, NN86; 04.12.2025

Hi Katie, sorry, it did see this on the soft landscape plan, however, due to the lack of much in it, I only thought this might have been indicative as it is such a poor representation of a LAP, a very minimalist LAP, especially considering the site triggered a LEAP.

1. The play boulders are welcome, however, the 2 pieces of play equipment, will not, on their own, encourage dwell time and are limited for imaginative and social play.
2. The gate should open outwards to help dog proof the site and slow down children running out onto the pavement.
3. Its good practice to consider secure by design, and, for example, include 2 means of access/escape – will the maintenance gates be accessible to the public to use to leave the site by an alternative route if they need to do so for safety?
4. Play equipment and seating should aim to meet the needs of the widest possible range of users, be easily accessible and enjoyed by all people, regardless of visual, physical and cognitive ability, mobility, background or age.
5. How does this slope work with the bitmac surfacing? See highlighted snip below.



As an example, Nick Hirst and I have just agreed a LAP layout on another scheme (see snip of layout and the images of the kit included below). To be consistent across the whole Kirklees Authority, this scheme at Penistone Road, really needs to be better designed, consider social aspects of playable spaces etc. and be designed to be a play area they can be proud of and would want to go to themselves, in line with what is being provided as a LAP elsewhere, by other developers.

Snip below shows the recent application up at Black cat at Blackmoorfoot, showing layout and equipment in the LAP on their site ... it also includes playful line marking on the bitmac of the adjacent sub station to increase playability across the larger grass area beyond the fencing to the LAP play area.



We would expect the designers to provide a more detailed and playful LAP, even within a constrained small space. This can be achieved in a variety of ways, such as incorporating thermoplastic line markings on the bitmac, picnic tables to promote inclusivity, and play panels fixed to the boundary railings.

Features should be arranged creatively to encourage climbing, balancing, hiding, and imaginative play, while ensuring accessibility and usability for children of different ages, from toddlers through to older children. Consider how the space will be used not only for active play, but also for quieter moments, small group games, or opportunities for children to bring and use their own toys.

Examples of suitable features include upright timber posts or stumps for stepping and balancing, painted stepping stones, or natural "story circles." The overall aim is to create a safe, imaginative, and environmentally friendly play area that enhances the new housing development, encourages dwell time, appeals to residents, and supports wider community wellbeing.

Example of timber creature in LAP at Meltham:



Townend



**Local Area of Play (LAP) Boothroyd Lane, Dewsbury**

Example of playful mounds and stepping logs at Manor Road, Huddersfield



Timber toadstools can be an alternative to stepping logs and good for quiet play.



The Developer should refer to the adopted Open Spaces SPD ([Open Space SPD \(kirklees.gov.uk\)](http://kirklees.gov.uk) published June 2021) which sets out the requirements for open space, sport and recreation provision to serve new housing developments

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kindest regards,  
Emma

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**Please note my working week is Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 8am - 4.00pm and Friday 7.30am – 12 noon**