

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 21 March 2023 15:18

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear CCMAC,

Following a request to [REDACTED] from [REDACTED] we now have a list of the proposed materials for the Wet Play area.

The central space is planned to be covered in a bonded, rubber crumb also known as EPDM (ethylene-propylene-diene-monomer). This material also covers the Children's Playground next to Windmill Drive. Hanna has already indicated that it will be the same material used for the Wet Play area. I have asked Hanna for additional confirmation that the EPDM will also be derived from shredded car tyres.

The Friends have a number of health and safety concerns regarding the use of this material for the Wet Play area and, as a matter of conscience, we want to share our research findings with you.

I have attached a list of studies and articles below, which I hope will be useful for your consideration and reference.

Extensive scientific research shows EPDM contains carcinogens, mutagens and heavy metals **above** permissible levels. The study published in *Nature* (see below) last year in April confirms this to be the case and lends support to previous study data on this material.

These constituents include PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons), VOCs (volatile organic compounds), Lead, Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Manganese, Zinc, Mercury and Tin.

For reasons made apparent in the articles and studies below, there is an ongoing debate whether these chemicals stay trapped within the rubber crumb or whether they can leach out into the environment in sufficient quantities to affect human health.

Skin exposure, inhalation, ingestion, environmental heat, hand to mouth contact after touching the surface, duration of play on a surface, repetition of play etc. are all highlighted as possible contributory factors to increasing the likelihood of developing health conditions.

One of the most pressing reasons we want to bring this to your attention is, unlike the Children's Playground, the Wet Play area will have children in bare feet with a large surface area of their skin exposed and considerable skin contact with the surface itself. Water will be fired between children increasing contact with the eyes and oral contact.

The play area will probably have the greatest use during hot, sunny days, which is also mentioned as a health risk factor owing to the surface becoming heated. Added to this, the fitted recycling system may not specifically filter out these leachates potentially leading to ever-increasing concentrations in the water supply.

The industry has claimed these chemicals are found in quantities too low to cause concern but independent research concludes the jury is still out.

In August 2022, the European Commission introduced much stricter limits for 8 of the PAHs found in EPDM leading to a reduction in the permitted allowance of rubber crumb used as an infill with artificial turf.

The research below details the incidence of cancers for female goalkeepers playing on artificial turf with rubber crumb and a high incidence of the brain cancer, glioblastoma, for male footballers playing on the same surface. In addition, there is a rising prevalence of brain and central nervous system cancers in children and adolescents in the US.

However, correlation does not prove causation. And there is widespread consensus that further research is required. Despite this, an increasing number of cities and states across the US are now banning rubber crumb and the artificial turf in which it is used as an infill agent.

Although the Friends fully support the new Wet Play area and believe it will be a major asset to the community, we are uncomfortable taking any risks with child health and would welcome a greater discussion on the use of this material prior to proceeding.

Best wishes,



Note: the articles that appear to refer to plastic grass are included as they contain the same rubber-crumb infill discussed above.

References:

<https://www.center4research.org/children-athletes-play-toxic-turf-playgrounds/>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-10691-1>

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/tyre-crumb-toxicology-study-raises-questions-about-artificial-turf/4010798.article>

[Artificial turf potentially linked to cancer deaths of six Phillies ...The Guardianhttps://www.theguardian.com › society › mar › phillie...](https://www.theguardian.com/society/mar/phillie...)

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/01/27/health/artificial-turf-cancer-study-profile>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/artificial-turf-rubber-crumbs-cancer-documentary-1.3307224>

[US playgrounds: fears grow over health risks from rubber ...The Guardianhttps://www.theguardian.com › us-news › 2019 › jun](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/jun)

<https://www.chemistryworld.com/news/europe-raises-the-bar-for-carcinogens-in-artificial-turf-pitches/4014144.article>

<https://www.ctinsider.com/news/article/RTM-proactively-bans-crumb-rubber-artificial-turf-13464197.php>

<https://www.pitchcare.com/news-media/rubber-crumb-is-it-the-new-asbestos.html>

<https://cleanwater.org/2018/01/31/how-syn-turf-industry-pulled-wool-over-publics-eyes-crumb-rubber>

<https://www.childrenscancercause.org/facts>

Sent from my iPad

On 17 Mar 2023, at 17:39, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear CCMAC,

Work starts on Monday with the transformation of the old paddling pool into a modern waterplay area. Images and more information can be found [here](#).

Communication plans laid out below. The attached poster has gone up around the site. More will go up across the Common and the news will be included in local estates' newsletters. With a fair wind, it should open ahead of the school summer holidays in July.

Have a great weekend.



----- Original Message -----

From:

To:



Sent: Friday, 17 Mar, 23 At 17:20

Subject: Clapham Common Waterplay - on site & publicity

Dear CC Masterplan steering group,

Just to confirm that that we're about to start works on site to build the waterplay and have just put out comms about it.

- Preliminary and enabling works will start this Monday 20 March and – unless there are delays beyond our control - the works will continue on site until early-to-mid July. We're aiming to open the facility in mid-July, before the summer holidays but the exact date is to be confirmed as there are several factors involved. We will be publishing further comms about the opening date closer to the day, around mid-June and perhaps an update earlier.
- A [Love Lambeth article](#) has just been published and the Comms team are following up with social media comms, press release and will also include this piece of news in local estates newsletters.
- Simon has also published a news article on the [CCMAC website](#), which is also where the QR code of the poster is directing to (see below and attached)
- Simon and Dan have been instrumental in the logistics of getting the information posters up by the paddling pool (a copy attached) and in other places around Clapham Common. Thank you.
- There are some laminated A3 and A4 prints of the posters available so do let me know if you'd like to have any to display elsewhere. Or let me know where and I'll see if I or one of my colleagues can do that next week.

Do let me know if you have any questions whatsoever.

I will also send out more invites for our upcoming steering group meetings as I've just realised we've run out and need to set up more.

While we try to stick to the 1st Monday of each months, this may vary in April (as I'm on leave on Mon 3/4) and in May (bank hols). If you prefer to have the meetings earlier on days other than Mondays than those suggested pls let me know.

Wishing you all a good weekend

Kind regards,

[Redacted]

Project Manager

Capital Studio

Infrastructure and Capital Delivery

Resident Services

[Redacted]

website: www.lambeth.gov.uk

Postal address:

P.O. Box 734

Winchester

S023 5DG

Visitors (by appointment):

Civic Centre

6 Brixton Hill

London

SW2 1EG

Disclaimers apply - full details at www.lambeth.gov.uk/email-disclaimer