

# **Epsom Riding for the Disabled**

## **Consultation Outcomes**

**January 2018**



### **Refresher**

The consultation on the draft plans took place between Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Plans and details were displayed in the Coffee Room at St Ebbas Farm and posted on line. It was promoted through Twitter and on the ERDA Facebook page and website. Consultation forms were available on line and in hard copy. The yard was open to the public over the first and last weekend of the consultation where some of the Trustees and Members of the Working Group were available to answer questions.

### **Summary of Recommendations from Consultation**

It is recommended that if the scheme is to continue that:

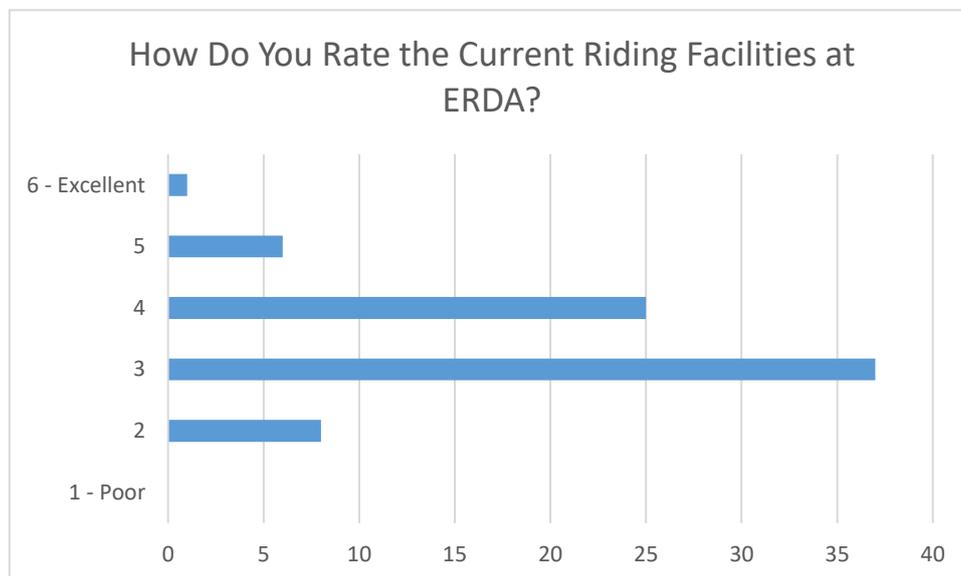
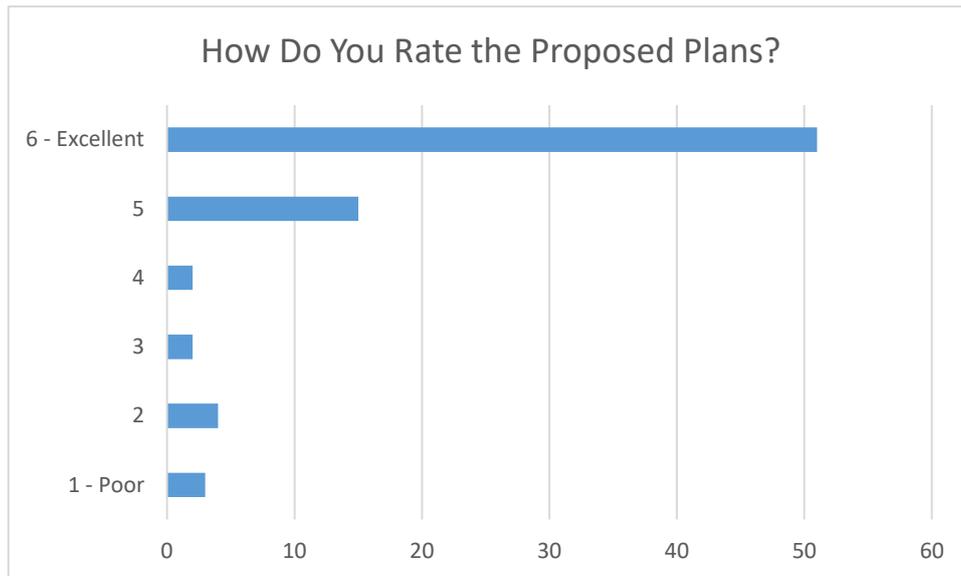
- The Trustees choose whether to apply for the scheme as drafted, apply for a 65m school or twin track both applications
- The business plan which underpins the justification is published to address a number of questions raised.
- Detailed costing be established for the agreed scheme/s
- Running costs are established
- The car park bays are not marked out but a drop off area is signed and ensure surface is suitable for wheelchairs and stick users.
- A gate is provided at the back of the car park to provide overflow and event parking
- Provision is made for future maintenance especially the roof area.
- Plans to try and address flooding in Starvation are published
- There should be a published statement in relation to shelter management and the use or otherwise of the indoor school as a pony shelter.

### **Responses**

We received:

- 73 completed forms
- 2 On line forms
- 1 letter

## Overall results



As can be seen from the overall results respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of the scheme proposed. Full details of the responses are included in appendix 1.

### Questions and Issues

All the feedback has been summarised into a series of frequently asked questions and project issues.

The questions that were raised during the consultation have been answered and shown on the website. For information they are included in appendix 2.

The key issues which are in the current scope are:

### Justification

Is there a need for extra rides? Do we need more horses?

- The business plan details the waiting list and the opportunity to address it. It is recommended that the business plan be published.

Cost transparency

- The construction costs cannot be finalised until a final layout has been agreed. If Trustees agree this layout then detailed costs we will be obtained.
- The running costs need to be established.
- The intention is that all the funding will come from legacy funds left to EDRA or from funding from donors such as the Lottery. It will not impinge on the day to day fund raising.

### **Car Park**

Disabled bays – Do we have them or just bigger bays (or no bays)?

Drop off area for riders with severe mobility issues.

- It is suggested to make the best use of the car park that there are no marked bays but that there is a drop off area created.

Walking distances to mounting block

Capacity

- It is recommended that the car park design is amended so that it takes in the whole of the access road. It will create extra capacity, make it easier for people walking or pushing to the buildings and make it easier for horse boxes and large delivery lorries.
- It is recommended that a new door is opened into the coffee room from the car park.
- If possible the ramp into the indoor school be moved nearer to the car park.

Surface suitable for wheelchairs and sticks

- Yes

Event parking

- A gate is to be provided at the back of the car park leading into Northside. This needs to be shown on the plans.

### **New Indoor School**

Can it be larger?

- The option drafted is the one with the least risk in terms of getting permission to build in the greenbelt. Even then the Council have reservations about the car park and the section of the proposed school that sticks out beyond the existing school. If Trustees are minded to seek permission for a larger indoor school there are two options:
  1. Change the current design to a 65m school. The risk is that we have already been warned that getting permission for the 45m school is pushing the boundary. If the 65m application is refused then the money spent to work up the option and apply (£20000) is lost.
  2. Twin track the application. Whilst this would mean extra costs of around £10,000, if the 65m option is not approved hopefully the 45m one will be.

Maintenance provision i.e. roof walkway

- Yes. To be considered as a part of detailed design if it proceeds.

### **Existing Facilities**

Refurbish existing indoor school

- Whilst it is not essential for the scheme Trustees could consider whether they also want to fund raise to re-clad and re-roof the existing school.

More stables in addition to those on the plan

- Not needed under business plan

Flooding in starvation

- There has been a lot of work to establish the cause of the flooding in Starvation and plans made to try and address it. It is suggested that these investigations and plans are published so that others are aware of what is happening otherwise it is assumed that nothing is.

### **Operational**

Are we going to hire it out and if so how is it going to be run?

- There are no plans currently to hire out the additional space. It will depend on whether there is any free time after the increased rides are in place.

Volunteers recruitment

- More volunteers will have to be recruited and additional rides can't take place until they are in place.

Grazing provision and management (increased herd)

- As detailed in the business plan

Shelter provision and management

- There was a lot of concern about the use of the indoor school as a shelter. Some thought that a new shelter had been ordered. There should be a published statement on the use or otherwise of the indoor school as a shelter.

Delivery and large vehicle movements

- In agreeing the final design, we will ensure that large vehicles can access the necessary areas.

### **Misc.**

Café / area for refreshments

Changing area

Improved toilets

Training area stable management

Horse gallery and trophy area

- These issues will be considered as a part of the redesign of the main building assuming the new stables can be agreed.

Hoist

- Currently we do not take riders who cannot weight bear to transfer to their horse. There is no current plan to change this.

Extension of sensory ride

- It is good to see how successful the sensory ride is. Whether it can be extended will be considered after this project is completed

Permanent marked out outdoor dressage arena

- This could be looked at once the schools are redeveloped to assess whether it is still needed.

Outdoor viewing area.

- The area on shelter field adjacent to the outdoor school can be used to provide benches and tables and create a spectator area.

Mechanical Horse

- This can be considered once this project has been completed. It would need to be kept indoors and therefore would need to wait to see if space can be freed up within the existing buildings.

## Planning Application

The cost of submitting the planning applications will be made up of:

Full Planning Submission Fee	approx. £8870
Biology & Ecology Surveys	£944 Excludes reports if species found.
Land & Visual Impact Assessment and landscaping scheme	approx. £2160 (quotations delayed)
Lighting Assessment	TBA
Traffic Statement	£1900
Tree Survey	£1550
Topography Survey	£1050
Sustainable drainage report	£575
Equine Planning fees	£3,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,289</b>

It may be possible to get a discount on the second application if it is twin tracked and we won't need to recommit all the surveys. However, costs are still likely to be in the region of £10,000 +.

### Next Steps

Trustees are asked to consider the recommendations on page one and decide on how to proceed. If you wish to proceed to a planning application then the Working Group will need to spend time with the Architect going through the detail such as the material to be used on the outside of the school, size and layout of the mounting blocks, car park finish, etc for the submission.

**Ray Lee**

## Survey Results

1. How would you rate the current riding school facilities at ERDA?
2. Comments on existing facilities
3. How would you rate the proposed plans?
4. What aspects of our proposals do you like?
5. What aspects of our proposals do you think could be improved?
6. Do you agree that improved facilities would be of benefit to ERDA and the community it serves?
7. Do you have any other suggestions or questions on our proposals?

No .	Qu 1 - Rating	Qu 2 – Feedback	Qu 3 - Rating	Qu 4 - Feedback	Qu 5 - Feedback	Qu 6 – Y/N	Qu 7 – Suggestions and Questions
1	4	Mix of indoor and outdoor facilities is good but the indoor school doesn't have a lot of room.	6	The separation of car park from horses - more equine friendly. The extra riding area with second indoor school is really good as it means more people can ride and people can be taken out of the main group to practice next door if they want to. Viewing area very good for health and safety.		y	n
2	3	No viewing area in the inside school and small both inside and outside	6	The larger inside school with viewing area for those long winter months. Reduced waiting times (my children were on list for 3 years)		y	
3	3		6	bigger school area		y	
4	4	First impression - very organised and has got lots of outdoor space, however the tack room can become crammed at times	6	The layout overall is compact and the new car park area will make overall accessibility for both riders and volunteers much easier.		y	
5	3	The current mounting facilities can make it difficult to mount riders. There are lots of tight corners and it is on hard surfaces, the instructor also has their back to the school.	6	I like the fact the indoor school will be bigger, this will give riders so much more opportunities. I also really like that there will be a viewing area for parents, away from the yard.	Might be nice to group more of the stables together so the horses are all in one place.	y	I think it's a great proposal for the future of RDA and it will greatly progress our facilities allowing us to offer the fantastic opportunity of horse riding to more people.
6	3		6	larger outdoor school		y	

7	3	Outdoor school is quite small. Indoor school feels cramped. Mounting area in yard a bit inconvenient.	6	Everything!! More space = more sessions.	None	y	Nope. Approve it please xxx
8	4		6	The additional space for riding and the resulting scope for disabled riders to enjoy this activity		y	These are excellent proposals which can only enhance an already terrific establishment.
9	3	The indoor school is dark and uninviting	6	That the new indoor school has a viewing platform for parents and friends.		y	
10	3	Current facilities allow for the riders we have however there isn't often enough space. It is difficult to practice for competitions. We can only have a set number of riders due to space.	6	60 x 25m school. Increased ride numbers. Improved mounting space indoors and outdoors.	Larger indoor school	y	Nil - improving our facilities seems like a brilliant idea. We can grow as a charity and help keep providing to our local community and helping people with disabilities.
11	2	Indoor school is not good for parents / viewers / feels unsafe. Stables are poor in stalls.	6	Upstairs viewing area looks great. Good idea to have mounting area indoors.	Not sure	y	It will be great to give access to more riders - push waiting list down. How will building work affect riding sessions?
12	3	The new plans have highlighted areas for significant improvement.	6	The possibility of accommodating more riders, and having a better sized school fit for more / larger horses to use with ease.		y	
13	3	It works but could be improved. Limits growth.	6	Better indoor school. Visitors and parents accommodated better. Really like the fact that ERDA has a vision for the future. Able to accommodate more riders.	Indoor school still less than optimal size but a good compromise given restrictions.	y	
14	4	Updating will be a great improvement.	6	Inside arena	Maybe add a small café.	y	
15	3	Changing / dressing up facilities for putting on boots, hat / coat not good as in same area as staff eating area / rest room.	5	Very good riding enclosure facility - both indoor with spectator area and outdoor with an increased area.	Improve changing area with a separate area with hats / boots.	y	With an increased number of riders potentially at the same time the changing room facility must be made bigger. The current room is inadequate and cramped.
16	2	They are too small and a bit dated.	5	The new indoor school will provide a bigger area to teach in. Viewing gallery is good.	For the parking area - no need to have disabled bays - just make all bays bigger.	y	
17		As ERDA has expanded the facilities need to expand.	5	Larger outdoor and indoor schools.	Easy quick access for riders not able to walk too far.	y	
18	2	Could do with updating and improving.	6	The indoor riding school and viewing facilities.		y	

19	2	Indoor school is old, draughty with a poor surface. Riding indoor is very difficult for lots of our riders. Mounting facilities for disabled riders is VERY poor.	6	Larger arena. Better mounting facilities. Better access for riders and helpers (car park). Safer environment (riders not entering stable area). New riding surface / arena.	Larger arena - could have minimum of 2 rides at the same time in indoor school.	y	I think it is a brilliant idea! Our riders and helpers will only benefit from better facilities. As the lead for training and a therapist, the potential for revenue and a broader range of riders can only benefit our community.
20	4		6	Indoor facilities. Separation of traffic and horses.	Maintenance - roof walkway, MEP?, water, drainage and electrical. Traffic flows.	y	
21	3	Indoor school surface is hopeless. Horses don't like it. School is a bit small, especially for the bigger horses. No good mounting facilities.	5	Parking space separated. Bigger outdoor arena (love it) Mounting block close to the school. Like the indoor arenas connected for more possibilities and combined riding. School indoor needs to be larger please!	Size of the indoor school. I prefer it to be 65x25. Why should we build a smaller size when we have enough space to enlarge it?	Y	Please can we have a bigger indoor school. The drainage at starvation is awful and the area around the gates needs to be looked at. It is so muddy around it and its quite dangerous for volunteers.
22	3	The mounting facilities make it unsafe for the riders	6	I think it would be greatly improve the experience for the riders and make it even more enjoyable for them.		Y	
23	3	The schools are a bit cramped for the larger horses and more advanced riding. There is no facility for mounting riders with extra needs indoors and the indoor school riding surface is horrible and hard	5	Larger schools, better mounting facilities and more rational car-parking and cars are away from horses. I hope that this also includes better lighting for the indoor school - the current set up is dingy.	It would be more beneficial to have a larger indoor school, extending into Shelter Field where the fruit trees are coming to end of their natural life. Replacements could be planted around an extended indoor school	Y	Other than building a bigger indoor school and appealing if planning is challenging, please can starvation drainage issues be dealt with? It's a pond in Winter- if levels were raised with drainage into the water run-off drain that would help. It would also make Winter work easier and safer if all the gateways were improved.
24	4		5	New arena is bigger		Y	
25	3		5	New arena extensions		Y	Really good.
26	2	Size is small limiting number of riders and potential for activities. In order for safety the number of riders are so small in comparison to other stables and therefore limits outreach to the disabled community. My son waited 5 Years.	6	The indoor school is dingy dark and cold with no seating for spectators. Proposed seating would greatly benefit. The increased size would enable a much better quality to the rides and greater potential for enhanced training for competitions.	Improved toilet facilities would be benefit. A mechanical horse would benefit those needing position etc. OT targets and for those who are not yet ready to ride but need preparation.	y	My son has gained so much from riding balance sensory input, communication joy but also has been able to learn about some of the other things that go on at the stables. He wishes to work with animals in future. A training area to support these types of skills would be a great advantage.
27	3		5	A larger school	a car park which makes it easier for disabled people to travel to (I don't think it possible though). New lights in the existing school.	Y	
28	3	Tack room too small - lifting saddles etc above heads is unsafe.	4		Doesn't address all immediate needs such as better tack facilities.	Y	More storage for items (poles etc) outside of school

29	2	The facilities are basic and need modernisation. They hinder the progress of our riders. The schools are not big enough and are dark and not well lit.	6	Far better car park and schools. Proper training area with outreach to more disabled people will be more health and safety friendly.	Toilets need to be modernised - need changing facilities.	Y	
30	2	The school needs to be bigger to facilitate more children and shorten waiting lists. I feel that the school does amazing things to help progress our children but would benefit them outstandingly if facilities were bigger and better. Space can be hazardous at times when groups are larger and accidents could occur.	6	The current indoor space is very small and cramped which can distress SEN groups. The proposed planning would give a much better, brighter and welcoming environment with essential facilities. Health and Safety would be much better.	I think the indoor school should be as big as possible. This would open up the school to helping more people enriching their lives. OT resources would also be vital.	Y	The enable this amazing service to continue I feel that every aspect of this proposal with added OT equipment is extremely important. My son has transformed in posture, speech and social skills since riding here.
31	3	The smaller spaces make it harder and more dangerous to do each session such as when helping riders mount their horses.	6	It would give RDA so much more space and would enable them to gain more riders.		Y	
32	3	It is good but not much space	6	The bigger indoor school would really benefit the riders and the viewing gallery will be great.		Y	
33	3	Not much space	6	Space		Y	
34	4	Good facilities but not enough	6	Indoor school is very large, great viewing space and mounting space. Parking will be great for events.	More stables would be good too.	Y	No.
35	2		6	All weather effective service for our clients	Car Parking	Y	Possible parking on adjacent arena for special events
36	3	Slightly run down with regard to toilets refreshment area, car parking, viewing facilities could all be improved	6	Much safer for everyone using Epsom RDA in terms of separate car park has been a concern in the past. Allow more children to ride. Much nicer viewing area		Y	Our son has been fortunate to ride here since April 2016. His posture, confidence, listening skills have all improved since learning to ride. Would be wonderful to extend to more people.
37	3	Nothing to compare to really	6	Increased capacity, more comfortable for all involved	Café?	Y	
38	3	Difficult to compare to anything else as haven't been anywhere else. Obviously dated	6	Safer mounting area, separate parking area, viewing area	All good	Y	
39	4	They are very good but can be improved on.	5	Viewing platform, extended schools, 2-way traffic to drop off	All OK	Y	No
40	4	Good but could be much improved	6	All of it. Excellent	I am not informed enough to say. I just reckon it is all brilliant planning.	Y	No - I think the whole plan is perfect and will benefit our riders

41	4	Good but can always improve	6	Viewing area especially for parents / carers and more covered space with more changeable weather increasing		Y	The new parking area I hope will be suitable for stick and wheelchair users. The current car park is the best it has been.
42	5	Pretty good - compared with most	6	Most of it	If you're spending lots of money on a big project spare some cash for better drainage in starvation area and along the edges of the new stables and alongside stable 7. Also need better pathing along all areas walked by horses. Its no-good spending £1/2m if your volunteers are still battling mud and water! Need lots of gravel or concreted pathways.	Y	
43	3		6	Expanded capacity to run parallel classes. More space for indoor riding.	Nothing obvious	Y	No
44	3		6			Y	
45	4		6	New car park. Bigger areas for riding sessions	Disabled parking for non- ambulant users. Changing facilities for users who wear pads	Y	
46	3	No viewing area for parents/carers, long waiting list, we would love weekly sessions but realise that there are lots of riders who need accommodating.	6	All aspects! It's wonderful!!!	I can't think of any at the moment. It all makes sense!	Y	How long will it all take? Will the rides be stopped for the refurbishment or continue? Could you apply for lottery funding to help with the cost.
47	3	Stabling is mixed from poor (e.g. barn - some poor drainage - light etc) to good e.g. new loose boxes. Outdoor school is good and big enough. Indoor school is dark and draughty	1	In an ideal world with plentiful supply of suitable horses and volunteers and funding an improved school is a great idea. However, many factors make this plan unrealistic.	Size and location of new car park. No drop of area for riders with severe mobility issues. Access for emergency vehicles / deliveries. An indoor school as proposed is to be hired to third parties who will manage / oversee bookings / fee collection / maintenance	Y	Our herd needs improved stock and/or increased numbers of animals. As the herd size increases need more stables and especially more not less grazing. Increased herd size needs appropriate number of volunteers to be recruited - Are these available? Increase in rider and volunteer numbers need much more parking.
48	4	Adequate for the horses we have.	2		Better access for dropping off disabled riders	y	Why are we reducing grazing but increasing amount of horses?
49	4	Indoor school does need improving	2	Larger outdoor school	Not sure we need so much indoor space	Y	How are we going to offer more rides
50	4		6	A new car park is a great idea and a new indoor school is needed. We would be able to give more riders more lessons.		Y	

51	3	I have seen the expansion in the past of new stables and how that has benefited greatly RNA in both riders and their families. However, with the increasing number of riders (and potential riders) the facilities now don't provide enough for the demand.	6	That the new indoor school and outdoor school can be used for the community. That it will help with the demand of riders. The riders need (and communities) are at the focus point of the project.	Storage space for equipment.	Y	
52	3	Indoor school needs to be totally upgraded or replaced			Sufficient clearance for emergency services access to all fields and schools. Access for Knacker man and where the deed be done. Sedated horses just make it to the current car park.		How long we will be closed to our riders? I appreciate that depends on planning permission but are we hoping for a Summer build? Grazing reduction - currently approximately 11 acres, less then Northside whole or part? Where will the liveries move to? Off load of riders in car park. What is the procedure? Distance for disabled riders to walk compared to current drop off point. Riders with challenging behaviour can experience difficulties when walking. Size of facility. Do we need this? Are we planning to hire it out and is so who will manage this? Is this a planned revenue earner? What is the expected utilisation, how many sessions will use 3 riding areas concurrently. With the extra work the new facility will generate how will we cope if we can't get and RETAIN sufficient volunteers now especially ground workers and the essential additional numbers that will be needed. Getting and retaining volunteers is a country wide issue. Asking too much of them is a guaranteed way to lose them.
53	3		5	Bigger more effective layout		Y	
54	4	Indoor school is not fit for purpose because of hay containers. Why?	3		Disabled facilities. Parking for ambulances	N	Riders should not be able to ride with us for years then we would have places available.
55	4	The facilities are good but we need more space to accommodate more riders.	6	The fact that the bigger indoor and outdoor schools, together with extra stabling will allow us to accommodate more riders.		Y	
56	4	Yard quite small and some stalls very tight. Mounting area definitely needs updating.	6	All of it.		Y	It's going to be fantastic for all riders and users.
57	3	Schools too small, car park too small, surface not good for disabled people	6	Larger school, more schools enabling more individual teaching larger car park in a better position.		Y	
58	4	No viewing area, very draughty and noisy if its windy. I don't like the pigeons! Acceptable surface	5	We are getting a good viewing area and it will be safe. Good with a larger school so we can fit in more horses	16 acres of land for 20 horses means we may not get more horses	Y	

				safely I hope it will be enough good stabling,			
59	5	Indoor school is dilapidated	4	Viewing area much safer	Sufficient parking? Loss of grazing? More horses less grazing.	Y	Concerns about cost and sufficient volunteers to cope with more horses
60	3	They were fine when first built but time has moved on. I think the mounting area is unsatisfactory.	6	All of it	Remember to ensure that the people delivering heavy items by lorry have room to manoeuvre	Y	The extent to which we can operate during the building operations will be carefully considered.
61	4	Only to say they work well for our children. Toilet facilities are fine. Coffee room perfectly adequate. Stables OK Generally it's a well-functioning facility	2	A new indoor school would be good but personally we only use it a handful of times a year so it's not essential. Would like a mounting block indoors.	I have a problem with most of the proposals I'm afraid. I am all for improvements where necessary but can't see the need for more horses we don't use half of the ones we have. More stables, larger outdoor school new car park. The horses and riders are not going to benefit from any of this. Who is actually going to benefit and where are the funds coming from? We could do with a good drainage system in starvation - very helpful. Who is going to use the viewing area in the new indoor school, the electricity costs, alone will be pretty high in there. I imagine you have done a feasibility study on this project. It would be good to see this on the notice board.		

62	5		2		An upgrade / rebuilding of the indoor school on a more realistic scale.	Y	On arriving for the first time as a volunteer at Epsom RDA I was immediately struck by the sense of welcome, charm and even calm from the moment of entering the gates to arriving at the stables. We are dealing with both young children and mature riders with a variety of difficulties. It would seem counterproductive to lose this welcoming ambiance by creating an overly professional facility. Who is this for? The parking will be farther away requiring more time and effort in the cold and wet weather for people to access the stables. Is this a good idea? A great deal of money will be required to build this huge indoor school / car park etc. I think upgrading the present facility is a great idea but the proposed scale seems an intimidating overkill. The new facility would cost a considerable extra sum to run and require ever more fund raising at a time when charities are being squeezed. We would not look like a place in need of the public's generosity. I believe there is commercial plan afoot to hire out the facilities. Where are the details of that and any cost analysis for this proposal? Lastly, where will all the volunteers come from with enough time and commitment to man this large new set up.
63	4		5	Improved meeting areas. Extension of indoor school	Perhaps access to existing coffee room could be improved by opening one of the window areas fronting new car park into a door so that quicker access from new car park.	Y	Could toilet facilities be improved / increased? More disabled parking.
64	6	I have volunteered at a number of RDA centres and Epsom is by far the best. It has better facilities than a lot of livery yards and riding schools I have been to. I find facilities more than adequate for their purpose.	1	Unfortunately, I cannot see how it would benefit our riders - current schools are great - or our ponies. The loss of grazing is extensive via car park and outdoor school extension and for what gain. I also find grazing being given to liveries <u>extremely</u> questionable.	Please could it be explained how increasing the size of the outdoor school and building another school helps reduce waiting lists. It means we can have more sessions- great! But this means increasing the pony's workload or having more ponies. We cannot do the latter due to grazing loss and increasing the pony's workload is to the detriment of their welfare! Unfortunately, this proposal comes across as "empire building".	N	I believe the indoor school's surface needs to be re-done. But the changes in the proposal are unnecessary. I believe that it would be an awful shame to waste £350,000 + on this as people have had to work hard to be able to donate to our worthy cause. I am saddened to say if these changes go ahead I will have to consider whether my time spent volunteering is better off elsewhere.
65	4	They could do with doing up and rethinking	1	Not a lot	I don't think new riding facilities are required. Money would be much better spent on refurbishing what we have.	N	I don't see why a new school that size is necessary for disabled riding as we do. We should be here for disabled riders and I don't feel that any of the plans are with our riders in mind. I think is all just for show.

66	4		5	Bigger school and general improvement	The disabled parking is too far away and possible not enough parking anyway. Better toilet facilities including a disabled (changing rooms) toilet. Ramp for disabled to indoor school should be under cover.	Y	The size of our herd should determine what acreage we need to sustain it and feel 15 horses should be the far limit as the fields and gateways will deteriorate as they are at present. We must remember this is a RDA and the disabled are our priority.
67	5	Limited by space but very good facilities	6	New indoor school. Proposed extension of outdoor school. Indoor mounting facility. Indoor and outdoor viewing	Parking bays for riders need additional spaces. Dropping off area close to stable block	Y	New car park lighting.
68	4	They're old but very functional and everyone does really well with what is here but of course they could be improved.	5	Bigger, will be modern. A viewing area will be great. The fact better facilities will enable venue to be used for bigger events and may be an income stream.	Crossing and access to coffee room from car park	y	A hoist facility for those unable to weight bare. Love the sensory ride - could this be developed too?
69	3	Facilities adequate but great room for improvement as the charity grows.	5	Covered mounting block, safer mounting environment, safe viewing area, larger riding arenas, vehicles away from yard / school areas, improved health and safety all round for riders, helpers and horses.	Bearing in mind the speed some parents / carers arrive in our current car park, is a 2-way traffic access on a slight bend in the access track the best / safest option?	y	Would 28 car parking spaces be enough? Better facilities able to take more riders (more cars) knock on effect more volunteers (more cars). Bigger and more arenas and need to continually fund raise to run stables there would be more opportunity for more fund-raising events. These would hopefully attract more competitors / visitors so more cars / horseboxes. When overflow car parking has been needed in the past for the dog show / firework BBQ, the livery field has been used with separate pedestrian access by the small gate in the corner of the field. If the livery field has been too wet cars have been parked in the field by indoor school. I assume with the new design this would not be possible.
70	4		6	Larger indoor school		Y	
71	3	Not very good viewing area in indoor school	6	Larger riding areas, safer car parking, mounting area and seating / viewing platform inside.	Possibly better viewing area for outdoor arena	Y	
72	4	Both the current indoor and outdoor ménage are too small, especially when you take into consideration the track that the ponies make. i.e. They don't keep to the outside edge of the space.	6	The increased size of the indoor school together with viewing balcony for parents / carers. Safer car parking area.		Y	A permanent outdoor arena for dressage practice, rather than the current option of moveable white edging which can be easily knocked over.
73	3	Very basic	6	More space inside and out, better facilities for the riders / horses and volunteers.	Maybe an area for soft drinks, coffee etc. where parents and riders can get to know each other better and volunteers.	Y	A who's who "Horse Gallery" perhaps a room showing all the Epsom RDA achievements i.e. rosettes / cups etc. with pics - it's a really strong proposal - well done and good luck

Online

No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
W1	3	As a former volunteer with Epsom RDA, I feel that the facilities would benefit from being larger to enable Epsom RDA to grow and develop and to give more space for the ponies, riders and helpers.	6	I like the fact that there will be 2-way access to a larger car park and it's a good idea to have a drop off point as well. I also like the proposed larger indoor school and the fact that there will be better access. The viewing platform is also a fantastic idea!	None really	Y	I don't think so
W2	3	Good for small numbers but we seem to have outgrown them	6	Greater capacity and improved health and safety	None	Y	No
W3	3	Indoor arena floor is very uneven and lots of stones coming through surface. Ponies trip a lot and stones not good in their feet.	6	Larger indoor and outdoor schools.	Disabled access from car park - is it a little too far? Long way for disabled person to walk from car park to mounting block	Y	Will you need stabling as more people ride, need more horses?
W4	5	The existing facilities are in need of attention/renewing	3		I am not sure how a new indoor arena can reduce the waiting list for disabled riders. I thought that would mainly rely on increasing the number of ponies but more importantly being able to increase the number of volunteers.	N	I am concerned about the cost of these new proposals and feel they are leaning more towards providing facilities for riders who may be able to take part in events rather than concentrating on the core needs of those riders whose lives are improved by simply being able to perform the most basic of riding abilities and building on those. We seem to be losing the friendly more intimate environment of the RDA into what looks like a more professional organisation, the cost of which could be better spent on upgrading, but not necessarily enlarging, our current facilities.

W5	5	<p>The facilities at Epsom are sufficient for us to use when we visit every other week. Both my boys take part in the dressage competitions and their ability to practice would be greatly enhanced by a larger outdoor ring. A temporary one is set up in the field, which they use to practice. This gives the horses and them some idea of the feel of Hickstead and Hartpury but the field is not very level. As the boys have become older the availability of horses that they can ride has reduced. This has made it more difficult for them to take part.</p>	6	<p>The addition of a new indoor school will allow more people to benefit from RDA in all weathers. Moving the car park so that it is away from the track between the yard to the indoor schools will be safer. Increasing the size of the outdoor school will allow the sessions to be more interesting and demanding. Allowing the users to improve their riding.</p>	<p>It would be ashamed to miss the opportunity to have an internationally sized indoor arena. As discussed, I suggest that two planning requests are made, so that there is more opportunity to the best outcome for RDA at the least total cost. As it will be possible to have more users due to the increased facilities plans should be in place for sufficient ponies and horses (of all sizes) to meet the extra demand. There will also need to be more helpers to run the bigger sessions.</p>	Y	<p>I would like to thank the Trustees for taking the time to explain the proposals to us (the parents). It was a good process and allowed us to feel part of the future of RDA. I hope that the Trustees will make themselves available in future (annually?) to explain future plans and get feedback.</p>
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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Qu How are we going to pay for it?**

A Epsom RDA received a sizeable legacy a few years ago which forms part of our reserves. It was this windfall which started the conversation about investing in improving our facilities. However, it is only a contribution and we will need funding from grant awarding bodies and trusts such as the Lottery. We have researched and contacted several possible funds but they want to see us obtain planning permission and have a final quote before they will consider bids.

**Qu Is the £350,000 estimate going to be enough?**

A Once the consultation is complete and the Trustees have agreed whether they wish to pursue the scheme and if so what it includes, then we can gain accurate quotes and firm up the price.

**Qu Is this an all or nothing scheme or do we plan to split the works?**

A Ideally, we would do it all in one go but for funding reasons or if it will avoid disruption it can be phased.

**Qu How long is the process going to take?**

A There are four key steps that dictate the timescale:

- The intention is to submit a planning application once the consultation has been completed and we have considered any changes that come from your feedback. The planning process will take around three months.
- We need to seek funding through bids to the Lottery Fund, Sports England etc. It is difficult to suggest a timescale for this element
- There are detailed design and contracts that need to be drafted subject to all the above
- Construction. This depends on what scheme we agree we want to build and the phasing of it.

Overall, we are hoping to start building during the Summer of 2019 but this is subject to all the conditions above.

**Qu. How will building work affect riding sessions?**

A. We have had initial discussions with the builder and the main school works will take about 6 weeks. We will aim to do this in the Summer when the schools are on holiday and there are therefore less of our regular riders attending. Hopefully we won't need the indoor school. Whilst the outdoor school can still operate we may need to close for the occasional day.

**Qu With an increased number of riders potentially at the same time, will the changing room facility be made bigger. The current room is inadequate and cramped.**

A The new school and stables provide the opportunity to review how we use the rest of the buildings on the grounds. There have been many requests for training rooms, changing rooms, bigger tack room etc and these can all be considered providing we get planning permission and can raise the necessary funds.

**Qu Please can we have a bigger indoor school?**

A The current proposal shows a 45-metre-long school size. We did look to make it a 65-metre school for more advanced dressage. However due to greenbelt restrictions the Council are concerned that

the current proposal sticks out beyond the existing school and recommended that the 65-metre school would not be supported. Trustees will be asked whether they want to take the risk of applying for the longer school the planning application will cost us around £8,000 in total and you don't get any money back if its refused. However, if it is decided to stay with the 45-metre proposal the design allows for a 20m extension to be built should this change in the future.

**Qu The drainage at starvation is awful and the area around the gates needs to be looked at. It is so muddy around it and its quite dangerous for volunteers.**

A We are aware of the issues and are seeking a solution. We have been carrying out more regular maintenance such as scalplings to try and reduce the problems in the short term.

**Qu Can we have more storage for items (poles etc) outside of school?**

A Additional storage is planned under the viewing gallery area accessible from within the indoor school.

**Qu The new parking area I hope will be suitable for stick and wheelchair users.**

A Yes it will. We haven't decided yet on the final finish but that is of course the intention.

**Qu Are we planning to hire it out and if so who will manage this.**

A The new school may provide this opportunity however this is secondary to the rationale for the improvements which are aimed at improving safety, improving the riding environment for everybody and providing the potential capacity for extra rides in the future. This will be an element for future consideration once the scheme is built and operating.

**Qu What is the expected utilisation, how many sessions will use 3 riding areas concurrently.**

A Some work has been done to assess the capacity for sessions to expand and offer more rides. This is subject to sufficient volunteers, coaches and horses being available. Our long-term aim is to have the facilities and recruit enough volunteers to expand sessions and reduce our waiting list so that we can expand the reach of our work and ensure that our services are available to benefit as many disabled people as possible. In the long term we anticipate that sessions will be able to offer up to 12 rides at a time. Sessions leaders would of course continue to be free to plan their own rides and some may choose to have one large ride in the outdoor school but the option would be available to go indoors in bad weather. Others may choose to split their rides and use two or even three schools at a time.

In the shorter term, the larger facilities will make sessions safer and give our riders more space to ride and therefore more opportunities to progress. Some sessions are currently operating with 8 or even 9 riders in our small schools which are only suitable for 6 as a maximum. Some sessions who have independent riders find that more than 4 in our existing schools is restrictive when trying to develop independence in riding.

**Qu With the extra work the new facility will generate how will we cope if we can't get and retain sufficient volunteers now especially ground workers and the essential additional numbers that will be needed.**

A The Trustees have appointed two volunteers with specific responsibility to carry out volunteer recruitment campaigns to increase the number of volunteers. The investment in the future of Epsom RDA with the addition of our new facilities will help make volunteering with us an attractive option. The number of rides will depend on whether we can recruit the necessary helpers and we will only provide offers of rides to the level of the instructors and helpers available.