

Ms Amanda Petts

Stable Manager

Warrenwood Manor Stud

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THE INDOOR ARENA

To whom it may concern

My name is Amanda and I am the full-time manager for the stables here at Warrenwood. I am writing on behalf of myself and all those who use our friends & family yard.

As a background we currently have some 18+ horses stabled here for a full range of uses and abilities. For example:

- Some older riding ponies used for giving valuable exposure to ponies for children, including those with disabilities
- Beautiful Spanish horses that are regularly competed and have even been used in the lord mayors' parade
- A breeding mare and 1st born currently being broken in for top level competing (fingers crossed)
- International competition capable dressage horses being ridden by the yard owners daughter (Amelia Brunt) who is currently on the British Dressage training program for future International athletes

We regularly hold unpaid riding/horse sessions for children with disabilities. There is a clear link with riding / being exposed to animals and enhancing the life and well being of the disabled. Any cancelled sessions are heart-breaking for all concerned

We were all looking forwards to the indoor arena, as whilst the current outdoor arena is beautiful and well used, during certain times it can be unusable or dangerous. Not being able to ride the horses is not ideal especially for prolonged periods and when conditions are not good outside the risks for rider and horse is such that falls / injuries can occur.

To give you an idea of the situation I shall try and explain:

- Horses are flight animals and in the wild they are the prey, so their natural instincts tell them to run away as quick as they can from danger.
- Alongside the current arena is a bridleway used by riders, cyclists, runners, dog walkers etc, as well as wildlife like foxes and deer.
- Particularly in winter when it is dark or gloomy the horses are regularly "spooked" by these activities which causes the horse to shoot off, sometime causes heavy falls or the horse to run into a fence.
- All year round when its windy the jumps or other items can blow over, again causing the "spooking" risk

- Finally, if horses cannot be worked (especially in the winter months when the fields can also be unusable) then it has a negative effect on the horses wellbeing (physically and mentally) from being cooped up indoors. When finally let out to field or with rider they are then so pleased to be out they can injure themselves or rider/handle by racing around.

As you can see having the indoor arena provides huge benefits such as:

1. Horses & riders can be trained and exercised throughout the year reducing the risk of injury due to the public bridleway along side
2. Horses can be exercised throughout the year enhancing their well being & reducing injury risks
3. Our budding Olympian (and maybe other local talents) can have year-round access to training facilities improving their chances of reaching their potential
4. Clinics and pony club usage would not need to be cancelled due to weather, with the associated benefits for all involved
5. Disabled riding sessions would not need to be cancelled due to weather thus avoiding disappointment to these vulnerable people

In addition, if the arena goes ahead, we may be able to further increase the sessions for disadvantaged / disabled children/young adults. This is something I am passionate about, especially when I see the benefit it gives to these people.

We had hoped the location was such that it had minimal if any impact to local residents. Potentially the main arenas lights would be on less to reduce light pollution further. Obviously initially you have not agreed however I hope you can now see the huge benefits for not just the yard but the local horse community and some disadvantaged / disabled children and would reconsider your decision.

This is an extremely large and busy stable with great demands on all the horses from not only exercising but specialist training for competitions, which is often difficult to manage with all the hours lost due to the weather and dark winter months when the indoor manege would come in to its own and give us the comfort and extra hours we badly need to manage and exercise and train the horses. The quality and range of horses we have here, requires not just simple exercising but rigorous training as you can imagine with Olympic prospects.

Kind Regards

Amanda Petts

Warrenwood Manor Stud – Stable Manager