

The Academy of Gym (TAG) Statement

Background to planning application - Keynor

The Academy of Gym (TAG) was founded in 2009 to provide gymnastics classes to the community of Chichester and its' surrounding areas. The structure of our club is a company limited by guarantee (operating as a 'not for profit' community club). We promote health, fitness, fun and opportunity. The club currently offers recreational and competitive gymnastics classes for children from 4 years to teenagers and young adults. Our staff are both voluntary and paid and the club has 12 coaches and a fantastic team of committed and supportive volunteers, parents.

The club currently operates from a number of locations in the Chichester area, sharing facilities, renting sports halls and school gymnasiums. Due to space and time restrictions TAG can currently only offer women's gymnastics and basic recreational gymnastics for girls and boys.

A move to a permanent facility will enable the club to offer more gymnastic disciplines, such as pre-school, sports acrobatics, team gym and many others. By doing so the club hopes to increase its capacity and give opportunities to all those that wish to participate in this popular sport. We currently have 150 members, with a waiting list of 50+.

Within the last few years several TAG gymnasts has been selected for the South-East regional squad. We currently have 14 gymnasts in the Sussex county squad and 4 gymnasts have reached the national finals representing the South-East region.

This success has been achieved despite the fact that TAG gymnasts do not have regular access to the training facilities that the gymnasts they compete with have at their clubs. Sprung floors, tumble tracks and foam pits enable gymnasts to train to a higher standard and reach their full potential; they also significantly reduce the potential for injury at this level.

Our aim for the future is to continue to grow and develop the club and to give children and adults from all backgrounds, abilities and disabilities the opportunity to experience and enjoy our sport.

To move TAG to a bigger and better-equipped permanent facility in order to provide a friendly, community- based sports club, which would focus on improving access to gymnastics for the population of Chichester and surrounding areas and eventually set a pathway for national champions within different disciplines of the sport. The club will offer an environment for all to participate in various classes to improve their overall health in a fun, disciplined, safe environment, make friends, become part of a team and enjoy the sport.

Our search for premises

The Academy of Gym currently operates from various rented locations in Chichester such as sports halls and school gymnasiums, in Westgate, Bishop Luffa, Chidham, Portsmouth and Bognor.

The Academy of Gym has been in search of a permanent property, to occupy long term, for the last 5 years. Suitable properties have been considered in and around the Chichester area, however none have materialised due to ownership and/ or permitted planning uses.

We have view over 20 properties and these are the outcomes.

1) Warehouse, Park Farm, Park Lane, Selsey, Chichester, PO20 0HF -

Perfect- It was cleared through the landlord to allow a gymnastics club, we were going to put a COU app, and then landlord had new ideas for the unit and withdrew their consent.

2) Keynor Farm, Keynor Lane, Sidlesham, Chichester, PO20 7LL-

Perfect- Pre-app, unfortunately unsuccessful, please see attached

3) Glenmore Business Park Phase 1 Portfield, Chichester, PO19 7UW -

Perfect but unaffordable

4) Gravel lane, Quarry lane estate -

Perfect - landlord happy for a gymnastics club, it was also up for sale and unfortunately it was sold before we submitted the COU

5) Selsey Rd, Siddlesham, Chichester- Perfect- we missed out to another business.

6) Grace centre, terminus Rd- Only a 6mth lease was offered

7) Unit in Charlton mill way, Charlton- Too rural

8) Unit 8 Vinnetrow Business Centre -

Perfect- Pre-app, unfortunately unsuccessful, see attached

Enquired-

8) Walton Farm, Walton Lane, Bosham, Chichester, PO18 8QB -

WC facilities unavailable

9) Broadbridge Business Centre, Delling Lane, Bosham, Chichester -

Eaves height too low

10) Barn at Crows Hall Farm, Chilgrove Road, Lavant, Chichester-

Short term lease only

11) Ham farm, Bosham, Chichester- Risk of flooding

13) Siddlesham new development units nr Keynor Lane -

We met with the landlord and he tried to get the COU for that particular unit before the build, but was unsuccessful, but said we can always apply after the unit was built

14) Thursdays night club- Eaves height too low

15) Funtington new unit development-

Unsuitable for children as there would be lots of lorries/ tractors etc

Many more through Flude and Medhursts, including units on Terminus Rd, the old college and quite a few more around Chichester area - all unsuitable because of roof height/location/cost.

Parking requirements

- Keynor has approx 8 spaces at the back of the unit, with plenty of communal parking at the front

- Daytime - expected cars per hour x 12 (am - 10am & 11am) - (pm - 1pm & 2pm) - 45min classes

- Evening - expected cars per hour x 12 (4.30pm & 5.45pm & 7pm & 8.15pm - finish at 9.30pm) - 1hr classes

- Saturdays - expected cars per hour x 12 (9.15am & 10.30am & 11.45am & 1pm-finish at 5pm) - 1hr classes

- Sundays - expected cars per hour x 12 (10am & 11.15pm- finish at 4pm) - 1hr classes

(this doesn't include gymnasts that car share, so possibly less)

We could allow a 15 min break between classes too so cars from one class have left before the next class starts