

Havant Borough Council

FAO: Kayleigh Taylor

By email only

21<sup>st</sup> August 2024

Planning Practice Guidance Paragraph: 003 Reference ID: 37-003-20140306

**Application Reference:** APP/24/00578

**Site:** Town Park, Grainger Development Site Land West of, London Road PO7 5SP

**Proposal:** Reserved Matters application pursuant to outline application APP/10/00828/ (and WCC 10/02862/OUT) and approval of conditions 6 (i) a), b), c), and d), and conditions 3, 6 (ii) a), b), e), f), i) o), 7, 10 and 11, for approval of landscape detail and access for the town park and layout and appearance of the park and multiple sports area.

**Sport England Reference:** PA/24/SE/HV/68367

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

### Summary

Sport England **objects** to this application as it is not considered to meet the relevant planning objectives/principles set out in our *Planning for Sport* guidance (2024).

We will reconsider this position should additional details be provided to address the points set out below.

In terms of the submitted reserved matters, Sport England has consulted the relevant national governing bodies for sport on the reserved matters details and we wish to make the following representations.

Sport England has sought views from the ECB on the proposed new cricket ground and we have received the following comments.

**The ECB** comments that in line with the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) review, December 2023, this facility will contribute to the need for 2 x 8 pitch good quality cricket squares.

The Hampshire Cricket Board (HCB) can confirm post a recent site visit that the dimensions and the ground appear to be full size. Generally, the HCB are very supportive in line with projected growth referenced in Havant PPS (noting that the land is in the adjoining Winchester District and the ownership/responsibility/operating model (Havant, Winchester, new town council) is under discussion.

The ECB adds that there does not appear to be any irrigation taking place unlike a couple of months prior, so via the council the HCB have offered a pitch advisor visit / PQS to ensure the ground is receiving the best possible care in its early stages.

In summary, the ECB are supportive of this development and the proposed layout (noting that the cricket square orientation is within North/South orientation tolerances.

The ECB requests sight of a fuller sports pitch drainage plan to ensure that this aspect of the sports pitches development meets with the required standards.

The ECB would also recommend that a Ball Strike Risk Assessment is considered by the applicant noting the location of the proposed MUGA/courts and informal viewing areas located to the south. The ECB can supply for details on this by request.

Additionally, can the applicant confirm the timing of the pavilion build (considered under a separate planning application 20/02445/REM at Winchester City Council and agreed in March 2022), and whether the ground could be brought into use sooner with the use of temporary cabins?

In relation to the proposed MUGA/courts, **the LTA** comments that they are supportive of the porous macadam surface treatment but would like to confirm tennis court lines will be part of the MUGA provision.

**England Netball** comments that they would ask for more details on the MUGA layout and would encourage netball to be included as the sport is popular around this area. A macadam surface is preferable or 2G artificial grass surface would be sufficient in this location.

**Basketball England** comments that the plans do not include basketball line markings. More information is needed to provide a full assessment.

**Sport England Position:**

Sport England considers that the relevant policy, principles or objectives are the following as set out in our *Planning for Sport* guidance.

Objective:

- *Provide – To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations. Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be physically active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.*

Principles:

- *Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.*
- *Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed.*

In light of the comments from the national governing bodies, Sport England wishes to object on the basis that further details are requested in respect of the design; layout and specification of the proposed MUGA/courts. This will ensure that the proposed facility complies with the relevant governing bodies design guidance.

Given the proximity of the new cricket ground to the MUGA/Courts, we would also like to seek confirmation that a ball strike risk assessment has been carried out by a suitable specialist and any mitigation identified in terms of a ball-stop netting solution. Currently, Labosport are the only ECB recognised consultants for such assessments.

Please note that this response relates to Sport England's planning function only. It is not associated with our funding role or any grant application/award that may relate to the site.

If you would like any further information or advice, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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