

**APP/23/00004 - BIDBURY MEAD RECREATION GROUND, BIDBURY MEAD
RECREATION PARK BIDBURY PO9 3JG - Sport England Ref: PA/23/SE/HV/64347**

Dear Tina,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above planning application. The site is considered to constitute playing field, or land last used as playing field, as defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). As such Sport England is a statutory consultee.

Sport England has sought to consider the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (particularly Para. 99) and against its own playing fields policy. Unfortunately there is insufficient information to enable Sport England to adequately assess the proposal or to make a substantive response.

Sport England notes that the northern area of playing field is used for both cricket and small sided football. The southern portion of playing field is used for football and has accommodated a youth 11x11 natural turf football pitch (approx. 91m x 55m exc. 3m run/off). These pitches are tightly constrained within the overall playing field area with very little room for reconfiguration or relocation.

Sport England notes that the proposed construction works will be limited to a period of 8 weeks during a 12 month period. After the initial construction the works will be limited to a 2.5m by 2.5m fenced area during the sampling and monitoring period.

There doesn't appear to be any consideration of the impact of the proposed development on use of the playing field. Has any engagement work been undertaken with the sports clubs/teams affected to understand the impact on their matchplay and/or training requirements particularly during the initial construction phase when the impact will be at its greatest?

It would be helpful if pitch layout plans could be provided so that we can assess the impact of the proposals on the existing pitches at the site.

The scale of the initial works suggests that it will compromise the ability to use the pitches during the construction period, for approximately 2 months, and alternative playing arrangements may need to be secured if this falls within the playing season. Can the works be carried out during the off-season to minimise the disruption to clubs/teams using the playing field and associated facilities?

Sport England's interim position on this proposal is to submit a **holding objection**. However we will happily review our position following the consideration of the points raised above. As I am currently unable to make a substantive response, in accordance with the Order referred to above, the 21 days for formally responding to the consultation will not commence until I have received all the information requested above.

Should the local planning authority be minded to grant planning permission for the proposal, contrary to Sport England's holding objection, then in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2021, the application should be referred to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Casework Unit.

I would be happy to discuss the requested information further with the applicant and/or the local planning authority if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal

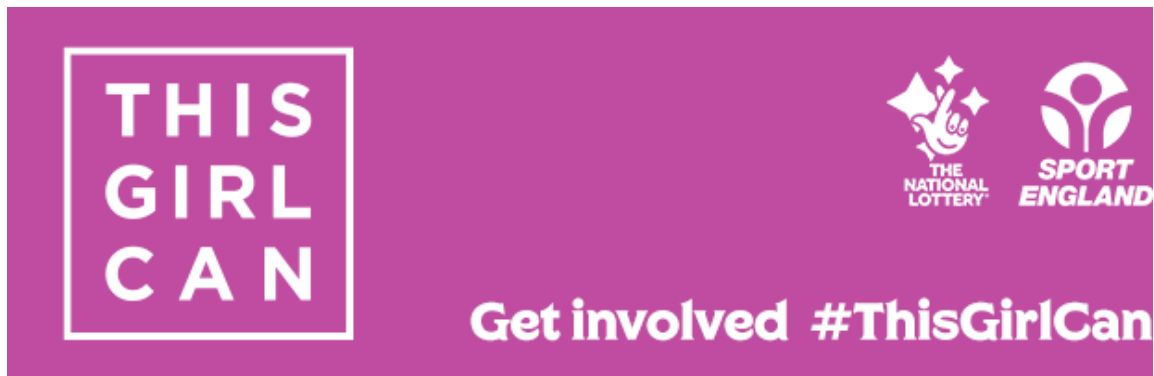
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