

App Ref: APP/22/00838 - THE COWPLAIN SCHOOL, HART PLAIN AVENUE PO8 8RY

Dear Mr Christie,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application for the proposed drainage works to improve drainage of school playing fields.

The proposed improvement works to the football pitches at the site are an important component of the mitigation for the quantative loss of playing field at Cowplain school proposed under application ref: APP/22/00837. It is therefore important that these works will genuinely improve the quality of the pitches at the site.

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, as defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). The consultation with Sport England is therefore a statutory requirement.

Sport England has considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (in particular Para. 99), and against its own playing fields policy, which states:

'Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of:

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or
- land allocated for use as a playing field

unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.'

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document can be viewed via the below link:

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy .

Sport England has consulted the Football Foundation on behalf of the FA and we have received the following comments.

The Football Foundation and Hampshire FA are supportive of improvements to the condition of the pitches at the Cowplain School.

The Foundation comment that they're satisfied the GMA have produced a suitable pitch assessment report, however it is noted that the programme of works included in the 'Sports Pitch Drainage and Design Works' for this application differs from table 6 in the GMA's report – 'indicative works required to improve the remaining field'.

Specifically, the following items don't appear to be included:

- Strip upper 10 mm of vegetation and thatch dispose off-site
- Apply gypsum
- Topsoil cultivation repeatedly to break down thatch and mix through upper 100 mm
- Stone bury

- Final box grading of the surface
- Supply and spread 5 mm of specified sand material
- Decompaction and loosening works
- Supply and use temporary irrigation
- Strip topsoil to temporary pile
- Place arisings
- Replace topsoil
- Reinstatement including fertilisation and seeding
- Install sand grooves using a Blec Vibramaster or similar
- Apply a 3mm sand top-dressing using the same sand as used in the grooves
- Fertiliser application and overseed at 30 g m
- Maintain to achieve minimum standard at handover (GMA Good and Sport England)

The Football Foundation would welcome clarification that the above list forms part of the works to be undertaken.

For the last point, the applicant should commit to providing pitches at this standard at handover, as indicated by the GMA report.

Sport England would therefore ask for confirmation on this matter to ensure that the proposed works will ensure the pitches are fit for purpose and of good quality.

Once we have confirmation, Sport England will be able to support this application.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal

Planning Manager

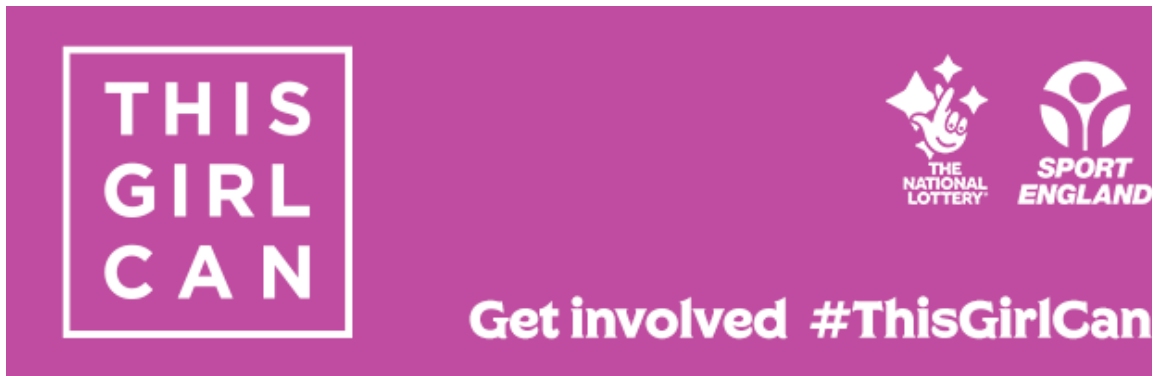
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