

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Summary: Sport England raises **no objection** to this application which is considered to meet exception E5 of Sport England's adopted Playing Fields Policy, subject to conditions to ensure the sports facilities are constructed to a standard which is fit for purpose and a future management and maintenance scheme for the 3G pitch is secured..

Sport England –Statutory Role and Policy

It is understood that the site forms part of, or constitutes a playing field 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 the light of the National Planning Policy Framework (particularly Para 74) and Sport England's policy to protect playing fields, 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' (see link below):

www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of, all or any part of a playing field, unless one or more of the five exceptions stated in its policy apply.

The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

This application seeks consent to extend the existing pavilion on its eastern side, create a new car park in the south west corner of the playing field, create a cricket cage on the western tennis court and resurface two of the tennis courts to create MUGAs with artificial sports lighting. The proposal also includes the creation of an Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) directly north of the pavilion

The AGP would have a 3G surface but the details of the surface specification has not been submitted for the MUGAs. The new car park would result in the loss of approximately 0.18 hectares of playing field.

Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF

When considering an application of this nature Sport England needs to be satisfied that the proposal meets Exception 5) of our policy to protect playing fields:

The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

To help assess the application, Sport England consulted National Governing Bodies for Sport on this application and has received the following response:

Football Association (FA)

- The FA have worked closely with Havant Borough Council on this project and it is a priority for Hampshire FA and the FA.
- The proposal would provide enhanced training and ancillary provision to benefit local clubs including Havant and Waterloo Youth FC.
- The specification of the works should meet FA specifications.

Lawn Tennis Association

- Whilst the number of courts is decreasing by one, the additionality of floodlighting gives a net gain and means the courts can be used all throughout the year.
- This enhancement will be beneficial for participation in tennis locally and will potentially allow both recreational tennis and programmed activity to occur throughout the year.
- The LTA is keen to see the operational model for the overall facility to see where tennis fits into the sports development plan for the facility.
- The LTA assumes the playing surface will remain as porous macadam to suit both tennis and netball usage but if this is not the case the LTA would like to see the specification for the playing surface.
- A detailed design of the floodlighting, fencing and playing surface is needed to confirm the suitability of the facility.

Rugby Football Union

- Havant RFC support the creation of new facilities where they will bring benefit to the community.
- Havant RFC is keen to understand if this pitch would be rugby compliant and how the scheme fits in with the Council plan to develop sports facilities at Leigh Park. Havant RFC have a need for a 3G pitch for training and games in bad weather. The Rugby Club is concerned that this 3G within close proximity would restrict availability of grants and other funding to install it.
- If the pitch was to be rugby compliant, the RFU would like to have sight of the Community Use Agreement and community pricing structure as well as the business plan for the site.

England Hockey

- The new facility may create additional capacity at other floodlit AGPs which are used for hockey by displacing five aside football users to this proposed 3G pitch, thus creating greater access to existing hockey facilities.

England and Wales Cricket Board

- Cage Cricket is a specific product that can be played at different facilities.
- The full extent of the impact of this proposed Cage Cricket facility is unknown.
- The ECB is supportive of the enhanced cricket facilities.

The extension of the pavilion, creation of a 3G pitch, Cage Cricket facility, resurfaced and floodlit MUGAs are considered to meet Exception E5 for the following reasons:

- The FA has confirmed the strategic need for the facility for football and if the surface is compliant with IRB type 22 (with shock pad) the pitch could also accommodate the needs for Havant Rugby Club. Notwithstanding that, there is understood to be an identified demand for the 3G for football use alone.

- The artificial lighting to the tennis courts will increase opportunity to participate in tennis all year round.
- The extended pavilion provides needed ancillary facilities for Havant and Waterlooville Youth FC along with creating opportunity for additional revenue through the hire of facilities.
- Whilst the creation of the car park does result in the loss of playing field, the proposal as a whole is considered to sufficiently benefit the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of 0.18 hectares of playing field.
- The Cage Cricket facility will increase opportunity to participate in cricket.

The Council is advised to consult and consider the comments from National Governing Bodies to ensure that a proper programme of use is developed for the sports facilities to allow programmed and recreational tennis and to ensure the needs for all sports clubs are accommodated on the 3G pitch, MUGAs, cage cricket and remaining grass playing field.

The information submitted does not imply the 3G would be fitted with a shockpad to be suitable for rugby therefore it is assumed to be primarily for football use. Therefore the Council must also consider the needs for rugby to ensure a planned approach is taken to the provision of new sports facilities elsewhere in the Borough.

Conclusion

Given the above assessment, Sport England does not wish to raise an objection to this application as it is considered to meet exception E5 of its Playing Fields Policy. The absence of an objection is subject to the following condition(s) being attached to the decision notice should the local planning authority be minded to approve the application:

Condition 1 - MUGA and Cage Cricket standard

The two MUGAs and cage cricket hereby permitted shall not be constructed other than substantially in accordance with Sport England Design Guide, Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sports 2013. Particular attention is drawn to the need for appropriate fencing and surfacing.

Reason: To ensure the development is fit for purpose and sustainable and to accord with Development Plan Policy **.

Condition 2 - Management and Maintenance Scheme

Before the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch is brought into use, a Management and Maintenance Scheme for the facility including management responsibilities, a maintenance schedule and a mechanism for review shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority [after consultation with Sport England]. The Scheme shall include measures to ensure the replacement of the Artificial Grass Pitch within a specified period. The

measures set out in the approved scheme shall be complied with in full, with effect from commencement of use of the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch.

Reason: To ensure that the new facility is capable of being managed and maintained to deliver a facility which is fit for purpose, sustainable and to ensure sufficient benefit of the development to sport and to accord with Development Plan Policy **.

Condition 3 – 3G pitch standard

The 3G Artificial Grass Pitch hereby permitted shall not be constructed other than substantially in accordance with The Football Association Guide to 3G football turf pitch design principles and layouts 2013 Edition 1, or any superseding design guidance.

Reason: To ensure the development is fit for purpose and sustainable and to accord with Development Plan Policy **.

If you wish to amend the wording or use another mechanism in lieu of the above conditions, please discuss the details with the undersigned. Sport England does not object to amendments to its recommended conditions, provided they achieve the same outcome and it is consulted on any amendments.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, Sport England would like to be notified in advance of the meeting date and the publication of any committee agendas and report(s). Sport England would also like to be notified of the outcome of the application through the receipt of a copy of the decision notice.

The absence of an objection to this application in the context of the Town and Country Planning Act, does not in any way commit Sport England or any National Governing Body of Sport to support any related funding application.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Heidi Clarke

Planner

T: 020 7273 1913

M: 07920560435

F: 01628 472 410

E: Heidi.Clarke@sportengland.org

**Sport England's London office has moved to 1st Floor, 21 Bloomsbury Street,
London, WC1B 3HF**