

Mr R Nash
Havant Borough Council
Civic Offices
Civic Centre Road
HAVANT
PO9 2AX

18 March 2013

Our Ref: SE/HV/2013/31425/S

Dear Mr Nash,

App Ref: APP/13/00113
Site: Crookhorn College of Technology, Stakes Hill Road, Waterloooville, PO7 5UD
Proposal: Extension to rear of existing performing arts building to create dedicated dance studio and alterations to existing building to provide additional teaching space and support facilities.

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

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 2010 (Statutory Instrument 2010 No. 2184), in that it is on land that has been used as a playing field within the last five years, and the field encompasses at least one playing pitch of 0.2 ha or more, or that it is on land that allocated for the use as a playing field in a development plan or in proposals for such a plan or its alteration or replacement.

Sport England has therefore considered the application in the light of its playing fields policy. The aim of this policy is to ensure that there is an adequate supply of quality pitches to satisfy the current and estimated future demand for pitch sports within the area. The policy seeks to protect all parts of the playing field from development and not just those which, for the time being, are laid out as pitches. The Policy states that:

“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 last used as a playing field or allocated for use as a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan, unless, in the judgement of Sport England, one of the Specific circumstances applies.”

Reason; Development which would lead to the loss of all or part of a playing field, or which would prejudice its use, should not normally be permitted because it would

permanently reduce the opportunities for participation in sporting activities. Government planning policy and the policies of Sport England have recognised the importance of such activities to the social and economic well-being of the country.

It is proposed to remodel & refurbish the existing interior of the performing arts building to create a flexible & modern performance arts facility. In addition, a new dedicated dance studio will be constructed to the rear of the existing building. The proposed dance studio will be located on the School's playing field. Aerial photographs of the site show that this area of the playing field may have been used as part of the grass athletics track, football pitch and cricket pitch.

In light of the above, Sport England **objects** to the proposal because it is not considered to accord with any of the exceptions in Sport England's playing fields policy. These policy exceptions are set out in our Playing Fields Policy; 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'. See:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning/putting_policy_into_practice/playing_fields.aspx

Should your Council be minded to grant planning permission for the development then in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009, and the DCLG letter of 10 March 2011, the application should be referred to the National Planning Casework Unit.

For the avoidance of doubt, and in accordance with Circular 02/09, Sport England is objecting on the following grounds:

- (i) that the proposed development would result in a deficiency in the provision of playing fields in the area of the local authority concerned;

Sport England may be willing to withdraw this application if it is demonstrated that the proposal meets one of the exceptions set out in Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, referenced above. It would be helpful if the Applicant could provide the following:

- Existing and proposed plans showing; existing summer and winter pitch layouts for the playing fields. Proposed summer and winter pitch layouts also showing the location of the proposed building.
- Details of any local sports clubs that use the School's playing fields (if any).

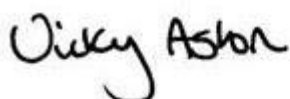
Please contact Sport England for further advice.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, we would like to be notified in advance of the publication of any committee agendas, report(s) and

committee date(s). We would be grateful if you would advise us of the outcome of the application by sending us a copy of the decision notice.

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

Yours sincerely



Vicky Aston
Planning Manager

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Email: Vicky.Aston@sportengland.org