

David Eaves
Havant Borough Council
Civic Offices
Civic Centre Road
Havant
PO9 2AX

03 July 2014

Our Ref: SE/HV/2014/36544/S

Dear David,

App Ref: APP/14/00464
Site: Purbrook Park School, Park Avenue Waterlooville PO7 5DS
Proposal: Grading and drainage of sports field, re-surfacing and re-fencing of sports court, resiting of jumping pit with runup.

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 is allocated for the use as a playing field in a development plan or in proposals for such a plan or its alteration or replacement.

This application seeks consent for the re-surfacing of both the rugby and football pitch (including levelling and drainage) along with the resurfacing of the hard surface to the east of the playing field to provide two open textured macadam tennis courts and two artificial grass pitches (sand and rubber crumb dressed pitches). The proposal also includes the reconstruction of the long jump and triple jump pit to provide a 40m polymeric surface run up. In the middle of the two natural turf pitches, the proposal would create a synthetic grass cricket strip,

The improved facilities are intended to deliver the PE and sport curriculum. The application does not mention any intention to make these facilities available to the community for sport.

The rugby pitch would measure 60 x 43m to accommodate under 11/12s and the football pitch would measure 100 x 54.5m which could be used for adult community football if made available. The tennis courts would measure 36 x 19.75m. The artificial grass pitches would measure 36 x 19.75m each which would be compatible for 5v5 albeit it is normally played on 37 x 27m.

Sport England has 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.

Sport England supports the provision of new facilities and would encourage the school to consider making these facilities available for community sport. Sport England recommend that the school identify local clubs who could make use of the facilities with an intention to sign a Community Use Agreement (CUA) in order to clearly agree with the users how it is intended to operate. Please find further guidance on Community Use Agreements online at:
<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/community-use-agreements/>

The school should also consider the introduction of sports lighting to serve the tennis courts and 3G pitches. Outdoor sports lighting extends the hours of play (in some instances up to 1000 hours per annum) particularly in winter and increases flexibility in programming for users. Not only does it allow more people to participate in sport, it also provides opportunities for sports clubs to become more viable by increasing the number of users. Well designed and properly installed sports lighting should limit and control light spillage. In recent years there have been significant improvements in sport lighting technology and surface design to help reduce light spillage. Further information on the benefits of artificial sports lighting is available online at:
<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/tools-guidance/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-sports-facilities/>

It is acknowledged that the pitch dimension are not necessarily compatible with the guidance provided by National Governing Bodies for sport, albeit they are being laid out to make the best possible use of space.

This being the case, Sport England **does not wish to raise an objection** to this application

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

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



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