

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Director of Operations

**FAO:** Kristina King

**FROM:** Sara Hayes-Arter

**DATE:** 21 November 2012

Planning Application No. HCC/2012/0405  
Swanmore College Of Technology, New Road, Swanmore  
Change of use of a horse paddock to an all weather Synthetic Turf Pitch (STP) with  
floodlighting and associated works, including a grass rugby pitch

Thank you for your consultation regarding the above. I have examined the proposals in detail and I have read the noise report submitted by 24 Acoustics.

Unfortunately, the noise report provides insufficient detail to allow me to determine this application and I therefore have no option other than to recommend refusal until further details have been submitted.

Whilst in principal I support this application, I do have concerns regarding the potential noise from the proposed activities on site and how the noise (particularly from shouting, cheering etc) will effect the nearest residential properties especially late in the evening and at weekends.

The noise report states that new pitches will be used during the school hours and till 2200 Mon-Fri and from 0900 to 2000 Saturday and Sunday. However, the report has not provided sufficient detail regarding the current background or ambient noise levels at different stages during the day or at the weekend. The noise report states:

‘For the purposes of this assessment, where the sports facilities may be used between the hours of 08:30 to 21:30 Monday to Friday, 08:30 to 19:00 on a Saturday and 08:30 to 18:00 on Sunday, a typical background noise level of 33 dB LA90, 1 hour has been used in the assessment below’.

However, no explanation has been given as to how the background noise level is derived. I would expect the background noise level to fluctuate considerably during a 13-hour time period and I would expect the noise report to reflect this. I am particularly concerned that the noise levels from the sporting activities will cause a disturbance to the nearest residential dwellings in the late evenings and at weekends

and I do not feel that the noise report has adequately assessed the increase in noise levels at these times.

I note that an acoustic barrier has been proposed to protect the amenity of those living in Crofton Way. However, I am concerned that there will be an increase in noise levels to some properties in Lower Chase Road and the noise report has not indicated how significant this increase will be.

Furthermore, there has been no explanation as to how the predicted noise levels were calculated. I would expect noise readings to be provided from similar sporting activities i.e. rugby and football matches. The report states:

'The calculation of peak noise levels has been undertaken using measurements of football activities taken from 24 Acoustics' in-house database.'

However, there has been no mention of noise levels from a rugby match and no average noise levels (Leq) submitted. I understand that the consultant has used the SNL (Shooting Noise Level) to predict the noise levels at the nearest residential dwellings from ball impact noise. However, there has been no indication given as to whether the noise from all other aspects of sporting activity i.e. shouting, whistle blows, cheering etc have also been considered.

Whilst I have no objection to the proposed change of use during the normal school day, until I have more data, I am unable to comment as to whether the proposed hours of use i.e. till 2200hrs are suitable for this location. Therefore, I am unable to recommend that permission is granted at this stage.

If you were minded to grant permission, I would recommend that you restrict the hours of use until the applicant can demonstrate that activities will not have a detrimental impact on the local residents outside normal school hours.

Please feel free to contact me on 01962 848 146 to discuss further.

Sara Hayes-Arter  
Environmental Protection