

Kristina King
Hampshire County Council
County Office
The Castle
WINCHESTER
SO23 8UG

21 January 2013

Our Ref: SE/HCC/2013/30729/S

Dear Kristina,

App Ref: PLAN/KK/WRE058
Site: Plot of land within Leafy Lane (north), Bleriot Crescent and Bader Way, Whiteley, PO15
Proposal: Construction of a Temporary Primary School to provide places for up to 210 pupils

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

The proposal is to construct new playing fields adjacent to a new Temporary Primary School in Whiteley. It is understood that there is a need to provide additional primary school places in Whiteley, in addition to the existing Whiteley Primary School. The proposals include a new playing field and MUGA.

Planning Policy Objective 2 of Sport England's Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation: Development Control Guidance Note (2009) (Appendix 2) supports the development of new facilities that will secure opportunities to take part in sport. A copy can be found at:

www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/developing_policies_for_sport.aspx.

As the proposal would meet this objective, by providing new pitches that could help address established playing pitch deficiencies, Sport England **supports** this application in principle.

In order to assess the suitability of the site to accommodate pitches, it will be important that the ground conditions and pitch specification to prepare the site as a playing field are given careful consideration. The preparation of new sports pitches will benefit from specialist consideration by sports turf consultants/agronomists due to the need to understand the implications of topography, soils, drainage, and surface preparation etc and to ensure the pitches are fit for purpose. Without this there is a risk that playing pitches will not meet needs because they will suffer from problems such as waterlogging and uneven surfaces. Consideration also needs to be given to matters

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such as soils, seeding, water supply depending on the ground conditions, and the standard of pitch to be provided.

Sport England recommends that a ground conditions assessment is undertaken by a sports turf specialist/agronomist who can recommend a scheme for preparing the playing fields to the required specification. The recommended scheme should then be implemented. Detailed guidance on the issues that require consideration is set out in Sport England's guidance 'Natural Turf for Sport'.

A copy of this guidance can be found at:

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities__planning/design_and_cost_guidance/natural_turf.aspx

Sport England recommends, based on our assessment, that if the Council is minded to approve the application, the following planning conditions should be imposed.

1. Unless otherwise agreed in advance and in writing by the Local Planning Authority, the playing field and MUGA shall not be used other than for outdoor sport and play.

Reason: To protect the playing field and MUGA from loss and/or damage and to maintain the quality of and secure the safe use of sports pitches.

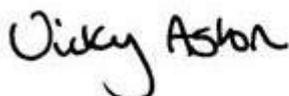
2. The playing fields and pitches shall be constructed and laid out in accordance with the planning application Drawing No. P8853-03 and with the standards and methodologies set out in the guidance note "Natural Turf for Sport" (Sport England, 2011), and shall be made available for use before first use or occupation [or other specified timeframe] of the development [or specified part of the development/] hereby permitted.

Reason: To ensure the quality of pitches is satisfactory and they are available for use before development (or agreed timescale).

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.

We would be grateful if you would advise us of the outcome of the application by sending 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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