

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above planning application which proposes a car park extension to create an additional 42 car parking spaces, plus 2 disabled bays and 2 electric car charging stations, an automated gating system and LED lighting at the Philips High School.

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, 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 light of the National Planning Policy Framework (in particular Para. 99), and against its own Playing Fields Policy, which states:

'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 which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or
- land allocated for use as a playing field

unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.'

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document can be viewed via the link below:

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

It is understood that the proposal is for extension to the existing car park that serves the school. The existing car parking area is separated from the playing field by an existing hedge. The proposal would not extend into the grassed playing field area. The plans describe any excavated material being disposed of within the school grounds and along the boundary between the car park and the playing field. There is risk that this would reduce the area available to pitches and pitch sports (and their safety margins) if placed on the opposite site of the hedge closest to the playing field.

Assessment of the Proposed Development against Sport England Playing Field Policy and the NPPF

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance provides clarity and advice on how Sport England assesses planning applications affecting playing fields. The development proposed is for an extension to the car park alongside existing car parking, it would not extend into the grassed playing field used for pitch sports and is on a part of the site not used for pitches, and therefore assessment against policy Exception E3 would be pertinent in this case.

To comply with Exception E3 the proposed development must only affect land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);

- reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;
- result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site; or
- prejudice the use of any part of a playing field and any of its playing pitches.

In this case the development is not on land that is or has been marked as pitches in the past; and provided that the disposal of spoil does not encroach onto the grassed playing field where it could affect pitches or their safety margins Sport England consider that the proposal would meet Exception E3. This would include the location of any storage of materials or contractors compound which must be kept off the playing field.

It is also considered that the proposed development complies with paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) because it is not building on grassed playing field.

Conclusion

In making the above assessment, Sport England **does not wish to raise an objection subject to planning conditions:**

- (a) preventing disposal of spoil on the playing field; or if on site, agreeing in advance of any commencement of development (after consultation with Sport England) precisely how much, how and where any spoil disposal would be carried out; and**
- (b) agreeing the position of any wider works, or material storage, etc and contractors compound before commencing the development.**

Suggested conditions are set out below:

Condition 1

No development shall commence until full details of:

- (a) the works/contractors' compound (including any buildings, moveable structures, works, plant, machinery, access and provision for the storage of vehicles, equipment and/or materials); and
- (b) a scheme for the removal of the works/contractors' compound and the restoration of the land on which it is situated

are submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority after consultation with Sport England. The works/contractors' compound shall not be provided and used on the site other than in accordance with the approved details and shall be removed and the land on which it is situated restored in accordance with the approved details before occupation of the development hereby approved.

Reason: To protect [playing fields/sports facilities] from damage, loss or availability of use and to accord with Development Plan Policy **. A suggested condition to agree spoil disposal is set out below:

AND

Condition 2

There shall be no disposal of excavated material or arisings from the development on the playing field.

Reason: To protect the playing fields from damage, loss or availability of use and to accord with Development Plan Policy **.

OR

Condition 3

No development shall commence until full details of the means and location of disposal of any excavated material or arisings from the development are submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority after consultation with Sport England. The development shall then be carried out in accordance with the approved details and completed to the satisfaction of the local planning authority before the development is brought into use.

Reason: To protect the playing fields from damage, loss or availability of use and to accord with Development Plan Policy **.

The absence of an objection to this application, in the context of the Town and Country Planning Act, cannot be taken as formal support or consent from Sport England or any National Governing Body of Sport to any related funding application, or as may be required by virtue of any pre-existing funding agreement.