Development Management – Delegated Officer Report

Application Number: AWDM/0473/25 Recommendation: APPROVE

Site: Worthing Football Club, Woodside Road, Worthing

Proposal: Proposed illuminated scoreboard to south-west corner of stadium

Date of Site Visit: May 2025

Neighbours Checked: Y

Additional neighbour notification: N

Proposal, Site and Surroundings:

This application seeks permission for an illuminated scoreboard in the south western corner of the Worthing Football Club Stadium accessed via Woodside Road.

The scoreboard would stand on posts 2.8 metres high with the scoreboard itself measuring 3 metres in height and 4 metres in width.

The proposed site is in the south western corner of the stadium and would be located between the main stand and a mobile telecommunications mast and its associated compound. The nearest residential properties are to the west in St Elmo's Road, while a bowling club is to the south.

Planning History:

None directly relevant to the determination of the application, but the football ground has been the subject of a number of applications in recent years including the provision of 2 new stands to the western and northern sides of the ground.

Consultations:

Environmental Health: No adverse comments

Representations:

No comments received

Relevant Planning Policies:

Worthing Local Plan (2023) DM5

National Planning Policy Framework

Planning Practice Guidance

Planning Assessment

The main issues are the impact of the development upon the character of the surrounding area and the amenities of neighbouring properties.

The football ground has been relatively transformed in its appearance in recent years with its spectator facilities having been substantially improved by the provision of 2 new stands reflecting the greater attendances at the stadium.

As a result, the stadium appears as a modern, attractive football ground but perhaps its least attractive part visually is the south western corner where a telecommunications mast and its compound effectively prevent any material redevelopment of the site. A scoreboard is about the only facility that could feasibly be provided in this area, therefore, and it is considered that would create a visual enhancement to this part of the stadium. It is not uncommon for football grounds to have a scoreboard but at present there is not such a facility at the site. There is no objection in principle, therefore.

In terms of its wider impact, an indicative example of the scoreboard has been submitted with the application, showing an installation at Yeovil Town, but there are a number of similar scoreboards elsewhere. These scoreboards' modern design mean that the lettering and numbering are not especially bright (but clear in their appearance) and therefore they will not have an impact on any neighbouring properties outside of the site, with the Environmental Health Officer not raising an objection. In any case, the new stands to the north and west will largely obscure the scoreboard from neighbouring properties anyway.

It is therefore concluded the application is acceptable.

Recommendation

01 Approved Plans
02 Full Permission

Is recommendation contrary to letter(s) of representation? N

Case Officer: Gary Peck Date: 5 June 2025

Authorised by: Stephen Cantwell Date: 6 June 2025