From: Jo Edwards <Jo.Edwards@sportengland.org> on behalf of Jo Edwards
Sent: 04 October 2022 16:21
To: Peter Barnett
Subject: App Ref: AWDM/1132/22 - Sir Robert Woodard Academy, BN15 9QZ - Sport England Ref: PA/22/SE/AAW/62633

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Peter,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

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 (particularly Para 97) 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 below link:
https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

Having assessed the application, Sport England is satisfied that the proposed development meets exception 3 of our playing fields policy, in that:

'The proposed development affects only 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 remaining areas of playing field on the site.'

Specifically, although this is not an insignificant area, there appears to have been no formal sports use of this part of the playing field since the school was rebuilt approximately ten years ago. The land is narrow and tapering which limits its potential to be used for playing pitches suitable to cater for the needs of pupils in the age groups at the school. It is also separated from and not required to facilitate the use of the main pitch areas to the west and east of the school site respectively.

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

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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