From: Rajvir Bahey <Rajvir.Bahey@sportengland.org> on behalf of Rajvir Bahey
Sent: 30 May 2023 09:49
To: planning@adur-worthing.gov.uk
Subject: Your Ref:AWDM/0600/23 Site Name: ST OSCAR ROMERO CATHOLIC SCHOOL-Sport England Ref: 64623

Dear Jackie Fox,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above pre application proposal.

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 2021 (Statutory Instrument 2021 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 Policy Exceptions	
E1	A robust and up to date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
E2	The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field, and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.
E3	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.
E4	The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field: ▪ of equivalent or better quality, and ▪ of equivalent or greater quantity, and ▪ in a suitable location, and ▪ subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.
E5	The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

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

Assessment against Sport England Policy
The proposal at St Oscar Romero Catholic School entails an extension of existing netball courts from 3 to 4 to create a new 4th court with new macadam surface and new fencing system and installation of flood lights to all courts.

Part of the additional court is to be sited on a hardstanding vehicular turning point which is not capable of forming part of a pitch. There is also an element of the proposal which has historically been marked out for rounders and shot put. Whilst there will be no encroachment onto the run off areas of the football pitch, rugby pitch, training grids and athletics track marked at the site.

The submitted Design and Access Statement highlights that the additional court and sports lighting will be beneficial for curricular, extra curricular and community sports clubs/netball provision in the area. To help inform this response Sport England consulted the LTA and England Netball with the former comments only received to date from the former. The LTA stated that the courts look to follow its guidelines. Further to this they would welcome an opportunity to speak to the school about opening up the facility for a coach to deliver community sessions on site post school where there is a demand and discuss its online booking system such as clubspark to help customer journey to court.

Given the above, the proposal will provide sporting benefits meeting an identified local need; provide benefits for the local community; improve the delivery of sport physical education at the site; and would not materially reduce the capability and flexibility of the playing field to provide for a range of sports and natural grass playing pitches.

The proposed development does result in a minor encroachment onto the playing field. However, having considered the nature of the playing field and its ability to accommodate a range of pitches, it is not considered that the development would reduce the sporting capability of the site.

Consequently, Sport England are of the view that the proposal broadly meets exception E3 and E5 of our playing fields policy.

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

Sport England would encourage a community use agreement planning condition to secure access for the community to the proposed facility should there not be one in place already.

Condition 16

Use of the development shall not commence [or no development shall commence or such other timescale] until a community use agreement prepared in consultation with Sport England has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and a copy of the completed approved agreement has been provided to the Local Planning Authority. The agreement shall apply to [describe facilities forming part of the development] and include details of pricing policy, hours of use, access by non-[educational establishment] users [/non-members], management responsibilities and a mechanism for review. The development shall not be used otherwise than in strict compliance with the approved agreement."

*Reason: To secure well managed safe community access to the sports facility/facilities, to ensure sufficient benefit to the development of sport and to accord with Development Plan Policy **.*

Informative: Guidance on preparing Community Use Agreements is available from Sport England. http://www.sportengland.org/planningapplications/

If you would like any further information or advice please contact the undersigned at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

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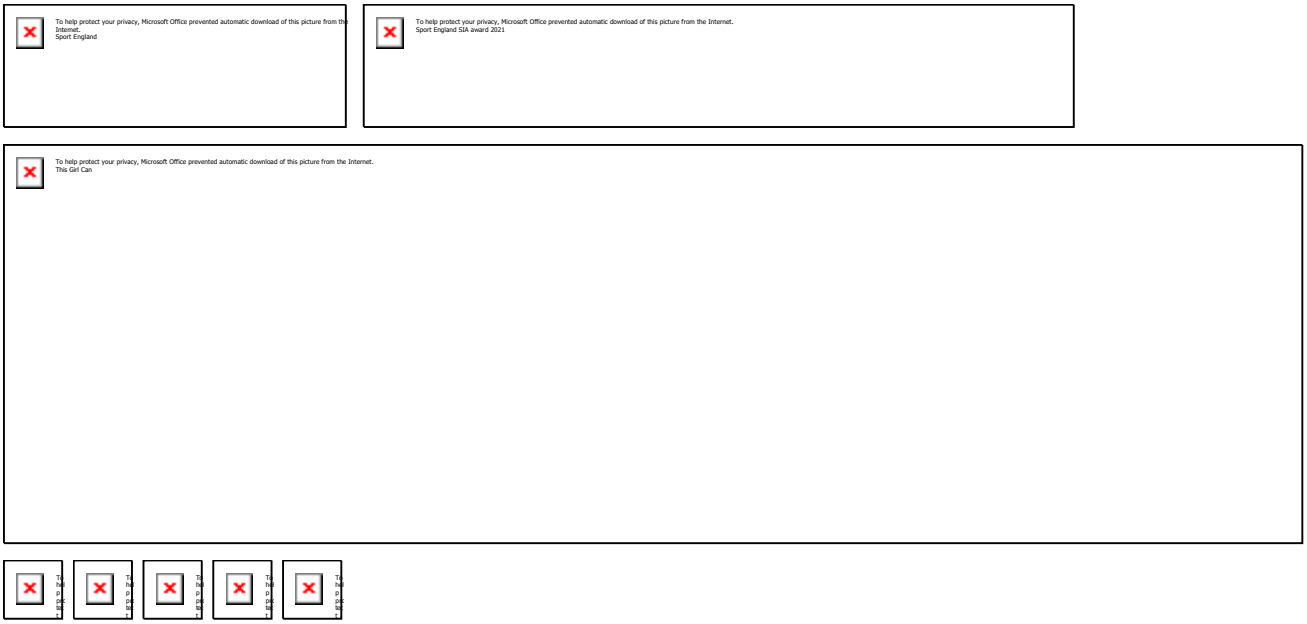

We have updated our Privacy Statement to reflect the recent changes to data protection law but rest assured, we will continue looking after your personal data just as carefully as we always have. Our Privacy Statement is published on our website, and our Data Protection Officer can be contacted by emailing Gaile Walters

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