

From: Planning (HPBC)
To: App No: HPK/2022/0425 - New Training Nets at Old Glossop Cricket Club, Manor Park Road, Glossop - Sport England Ref:
Subject: 28 February 2023 17:28:48
Date:

Dear James Stannard,
Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Sport England – Statutory Role and Policy

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field 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 Paragraph 99 and the presumption that playing fields should not be developed) and against its own playing fields policy which is presented within its 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document:' www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy. Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of all/part of a playing field. Exceptions to this policy are contained within the Playing Fields Policy Document.

The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

The proposal would involve the construction of two lane training nets totalling an area of some 33m x 7.3m. Located on playing field the nets would be constructed to the rear of the existing clubhouse.

As part of the assessment of this consultation, Sport England has sought the views of the England Cricket Board (ECB). The ECB act as Sport England's technical advisor in relation to cricket and its facilities and their comments are summarised as:

- Whilst the design of the facility is fully compliant and acceptable to the ECB, the location of the proposed nets is unacceptable as the orientation and planned location do not meet the ECB's guidance as shown below (with the issues highlighted in red):

2.1 Orientation

Where possible the facility should be **sited in a north south direction** to avoid batting or bowling into the setting sun.

2.2 Location

The siting of pitches in close proximity to trees should be avoided as trees create shadows which in sunny conditions make the ball more difficult to see. **Buildings also create shadows and influence wind currents which may have an effect on the playability of the facility.**

- The proximity of the nets to residential properties should also be a consideration due to noise and visual impact created by the new practice nets. The pavilion is the issue in terms of shadows and wind.

Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF

Playing field policy is a restrictive policy which contains a presumption against development upon playing fields or which prejudice their use. For Sport England not to object, the development must comply with one (or more) of the five exceptions (to the presumption against). Exception 2 allows for ancillary development provided it is sited so as not to affect the playing field's ability to set out playing pitches.

As the proposed nets are sited beyond the cricket outfield, Sport England is satisfied that the proposed development meets exception 2 of our playing fields policy, in that:

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.

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

However, as can be seen from the comments made by the ECB above, whilst the installation of nets would support the principal use of the site as a cricket pitch and the design of the facility would be fully compliant with ECB guidance, the proposed siting of the nets is unacceptable. This is due to their proposed location being to the rear of the clubhouse which would create shadows and influence wind currents which could have an effect on the playability of the facility. Concerns are also raised about the proximity of the nets to residential properties which should be assessed.

Sport England uses the planning system as an opportunity to enhance the design of sport facilities. Sport England would not wish to see the applicant go to the expense of erecting facilities, which due to their current siting and design, may create problems for the club or result in additional costs to make further alterations after it is constructed. The current siting and design may also impact upon the ability to seek grant funding, if it does not accord with design guidance (these comments are made without prejudice to any decision that a grant funding body may make). It is hoped that the applicant can amend the layout of this proposal to meet the ECB's specifications.

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.

In providing any further information, Sport England would ask that the applicant submits this to the local planning authority and not to Sport England directly. That way it forms part of the planning application submission and its associated audit trail. The local planning authority can then consult Sport England on receipt of this information.

Yours sincerely,
Sharron Wilkinson
Planning Manager
Sport England

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