

Subject: 2022/62/92406/W Erection of 10 affordable dwellings, with access from Chapelgate and associated works, including resident play zone Land Adj, 67, Chapelgate, Scholes, Holmfirth HD9 1SX
Date: 07 September 2022 17:01:21

I refer to the above application following our initial response dated 10th August 2022.

Following correspondence with a local resident and discussion with yourself I am writing to update you on Sport England's position on this 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 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 99) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within its 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document': https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of, all/part of a playing field, unless one or more of the five exceptions stated in its policy apply.

The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

Whilst we remain of the view that the housing development will not in its own right have a prejudicial impact upon the playing field, the Ecological / Biodiversity Statement submitted in support of the application details an optional area of bio-diversity enhancement measuring 5.5m x 85.5m along the eastern edge of the playing field. The grassland / wildflower mix proposed would mean that this strip of the playing field could no longer be used for sport.

Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF

Playing field policy is a protective policy. It establishes a presumption against development which would lead to the loss of or prejudice the use of all or any part of the playing field unless the development meets with one or more of the five specific exceptions [to the presumption against development].

The loss of peripheral parts of a playing field can sometimes be acceptable against exception 3. It requires 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

Whilst the strip of land in question does not appear to have been used to set out a playing pitch or part of pitch, the topography and shape of the playing field is such that it could be used this way if there was a requirement to re-orientate the existing pitch or set out pitches of a different size and number. As such Sport England considers that this aspect of the development does not conform with playing field policy

Conclusion

In light of the above, Sport England **objects** to the application because it is not considered to accord with any of the exceptions to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy or with Paragraph 99 of the NPPF.

For clarity, Sport England's objection would be resolved if the optional area of bio-diversity enhancement proposed for the playing field was omitted from the application.

Should the local planning authority be minded to grant planning permission for the proposal, contrary to Sport England's objection then in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2021, the application should be referred to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Casework Unit.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, we would like to be notified in advance of the publication of any committee agendas, report(s) and committee date(s). We would be grateful if you would advise us of the outcome of the application by sending us a copy of the decision notice.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dave McGuire

Planning Manager

M: 07795283218

F: 01509 233 192

E: Dave.McGuire@sportengland.org

Sport England



Sport England SIA award 2021



This Girl Can



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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