

**From:** Dave McGuire <Dave.McGuire@sportengland.org>  
**Sent:** 04 July 2023 16:51  
**To:** DCAdmin; William Simcock  
**Subject:** 2023/91704 Prior notification for proposed 20m high Valmont climbable monopole  
ALMONDBURY CRICKET CLUB, ALMONDBURY CRICKET CLUB FERNSIDE AVENUE, A... HD5 8NU

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Dear William Simcock

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 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](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**

The proposal impacts on the playing field in two ways. Firstly through the construction of the access road, and secondly through the siting of the monopole and enclosure.

### **Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF**

Playing field policy is restrictive and protective policy. It is based on a presumption against any development that results in the loss of playing field (in whole or part) or which prejudices its use. Sport England's playing field policy sets out five exceptions to the presumption against development. For development not to encounter an objection from Sport England, it must fall within the parameters of one or more of the exceptions.

The only exception which the proposed development could be considered against is playing field policy 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.

The proposed monopole is located on the periphery of the playing field, and Sport England is satisfied that it meets the exception’s requirements. The tarmac access route to the monopole will significantly encroach onto the playing area outfield of the cricket pitch. It is unclear from the application detail whether the access route is a temporary or permanent measure. Either scenario would be contrary to playing field policy exception 3. It would also prejudice the continued use of the cricket pitch. A permanent loss of the cricket pitch outfield would therefore encounter an objection from Sport England that would seem impossible to resolve. If however the access route were temporary, the work carried out then properly remediated during the close season then it might be possible for Sport England not to object.

**Conclusion**

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

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.

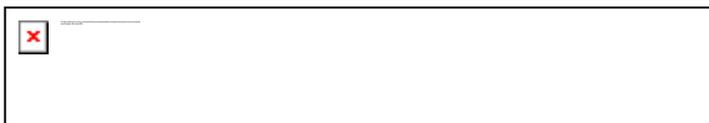
If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, we would like to be notified in advance of the publication of any committee agendas, report(s) and committee date(s). We would be grateful if you would advise us of the outcome of the application by sending us a copy of the decision notice.

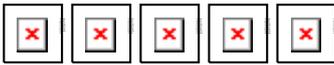
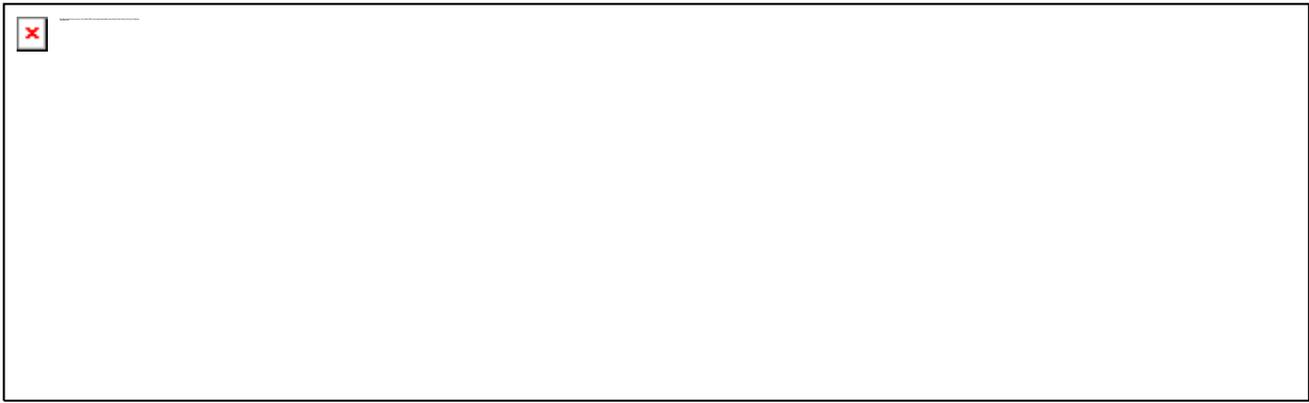
If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below

Yours sincerely,

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Planning Manager

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