

From: Richard Fordham <Richard.Fordham@sportengland.org>
Sent: 14 December 2023 10:36
To: DCAdmin
Cc: Chris Whittaker; Paul Ashton; Rachel Owen
Subject: App Ref: 2023/93350 - Former Deighton Centre, Deighton Road, Deighton, Huddersfield HD2 1JP- Sport England Ref: PA/23/Y/KK/66278

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above planning application.

COMMENTS MADE AS A STATUTORY CONSUTLEE

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 Paragraph 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's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document can be viewed via on this [link](#).

The comments of the National Governing Bodies for Sport

As part of the assessment of this consultation, Sport England has sought the views of the National Governing Bodies for Sport. These Governing Bodies act as Sport England's technical advisors in respect of their sport and their sport facilities.

The comments of the Football Foundation (FF), who provide observations to Sport England on behalf of the Football Association, have been summarised as:

- *Upon review of the plans, the FF don't believe that the reprofiling of the playing field will have an impact on the pitches and a 3m safety run off will still be maintained.*
- *According to West Riding Football Association the existing pitches (Deighton Sports Arena) are open for community usage and used by Deighton Juniors Football Club – a club with 10 teams playing mini-soccer 5v5, 7v7, youth 9v9 and 11v11. The site is usually marked out with four pitches catering for the various playing formats.*

The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

The proposal is for the development of former Deighton Centre (previously Deighton High School) comprising Social Emotional and Mental Health School (use class F1) comprising single and two storey educational buildings; roof mounted photo-voltaic panels; sensory garden spaces; multi-use games areas; landscaping; hardstanding areas; carparking; access with secure fencing and ancillary development.

The plans show that the majority of the proposal will be on previously developed land, however there will be an encroachment onto the adjacent playing field:





Sport England notes under paragraph 3.21 onwards of the Planning Statement that it comment that the area immediately east of this will also be reprofiled to provide a new spectator bank for the adjoining playing fields and that the proposed banking will be maintained by a strimmer at key times during the year and maintained as part of the wider maintenance of the general playing field land.

Assessment against Sport England Policy

There is already an existing bank that separates the majority of the application site from the playing fields that are at a lower plateau.

The adjacent playing fields are marked out for football. The FF, acting as Sport England's technical advisors, have commented above that upon review of the plans, the FF don't believe that the reprofiling of the playing field will have an impact on the pitches and a 3m safety run off will still be maintained.

The FF also comment that according to West Riding Football Association the existing pitches (Deighton Sports Arena) are open for community usage and used by Deighton Juniors Football Club – a club with 10 teams playing mini-soccer 5v5, 7v7, youth 9v9 and 11v11. The site is usually marked out with four pitches catering for the various playing formats.

It is also noted that the reprofiling of the bank will act as a spectator bank for people viewing the football and sport taking place.

Having assessed the application, Sport England is satisfied that the proposed development meets exceptions E2 and E3 of our playing fields policy, in that:

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.'*

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

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.

COMMENTS MADE AS A NON STATUTORY CONSUTLEE

Sport England – Non Statutory Role and Policy

It is noted that the proposal includes a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and the Planning Statement states: *“The MUGAs will be for school use only which will restrict the hours of the day that they will be used. The MUGAs will not be used for evening, weekend or community use.”*

As the MUGA does not impact on any existing playing field nor prejudice the use, Sport England is a non statutory consultee on this element of the proposal.

The comments of the National Governing Bodies for Sport

The comments of the Football Foundation (FF) have been summarised as:

- *MUGA’s don’t form as part of a recognised facility for affiliated football, so the FF are unable to comment on the appropriate design.*
- *West Riding Football Association would like further information on the proposed MUGA to determine if a CUA should be put in place to beneficial recreational formats of football.*

Sport England also sought the views of the Lawn Tennis Association. At the time of writing, no comments have been received. If any comments are received from the Lawn Tennis Association, Sport England will forward them onto the Local Planning Authority.

The site of the proposed MUGA will not result in the loss of any existing playing field. Whilst it is unfortunate that the applicant does not wish to make the MUGA available to the community, it is clear that the MUGA is being provided as a curriculum sport facility only. In addition to this, the FF comment that MUGA’s don’t form as part of a recognised facility for affiliated football.

As the proposed MUGA will not impact on any existing playing field, Sport England has **no objection**.

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.

Yours sincerely,

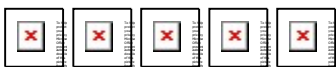
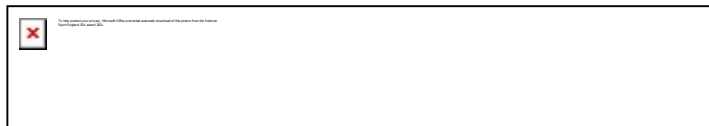
Richard Fordham BA(Hons), DipTP, MTP, MRTPI, AIPROW
Planning Manager

T: 020 7273 1987

M: 07879 602881

F: 01509 233 192

E: Richard.Fordham@sportengland.org



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](#)

The information contained in this e-mail may be subject to public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Additionally, this email and any attachment are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email and any attachment in error, and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying, is strictly prohibited. If you voluntarily provide personal data by email, Sport England will handle the data in accordance with its Privacy Statement. Sport England's Privacy Statement may be found here <https://www.sportengland.org/privacy-statement/> If you have any queries about Sport England's handling of personal data you can contact Gaile Walters, Sport England's Data Protection Officer directly by emailing DPO@sportengland.org