

Kirklees Council

By email only

Date: 24 February 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Application Reference: 2025/90090

**Site: EAST BIERLEY RECREATION GROUND, EAST BIERLEY COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOC...
BD4 6PU**

Proposal: Variation of conditions 2 (plans and specification), 14 (remediation) and 22 (ground conditions) and deletion of condition 13 (remediation) of previous permission 2021/90357 for works to existing sports facilities – amendments to layout, removal of pre-commencement trigger from condition 22, and removal/variation of remediation requirements.

Sport England Reference: PA/25/Y/KK/69821

Thank you for consulting Sport England in respect of the above planning conditions.

There are two matters that are relevant to Sport England in relation to this consultation that they:

1. The variation to condition 2 to cover the layout changes
2. The removal of the pre commencement trigger to condition 22.

Condition 22 was requested by Sport England when we provided comment on the original planning application in March 2021.

The views of the National Governing Bodies for Sport

As part of the assessment of this consultation, Sport England has sought the views of the following 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 (FA) have been summarised as:

- *No comments to make on the documentation*

- *FF considers satisfactory.*

The comments of the Rugby Football League (RFL) have been summarised as:

- *The RFL see no issues with what is proposed in the current planning application.*

The comments of the Rugby Football Union (RFU) have been summarised as:

- *As far as the RFU is aware there is no rugby union activity on site.*

The variation to condition 2 to cover the layout changes

Sport England notes that the main changes to the proposal are the inclusion of an extra 3G Artificial Grass Pitch where the 2021 planning application proposed a grass hybrid pitch (that was on an area of vegetation and car parking) and the provision of a new multi purpose pitch.

The original proposal also included a full size AGP that is now proposed to be repositioned on the northern pitch and the southern grass pitch, where the 2021 application original proposed the full size AGP, will remain as a grass pitch.

The FF and the RFL, acting as Sport England's technical advisers have not raised any adverse comments over the proposal and the FF consider the proposals satisfactory.

Sport England originally considered that the full size AGP met Exception E5 of our Playing Fields Policy. Although the position of the full size AGP has now changed, Sport England has no reason to depart from our previous assessment of this element of the proposal.

The proposed new additional 3G AGP of the smaller dimensions is on land that is currently part of an existing car park and vegetation. This does not result in the loss of any existing grass playing field and represents an additional sport facility.

The new multi purpose area is now proposed on an existing area of grass playing field (although not formally marked out for pitch sport). However, condition 22 will ensure that this will deliver a fit for purpose area of playing field. This will bring an area of playing field into active sporting use.

In light of the above the proposal is still considered to meet Exception E5 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy.

The removal of the pre commencement trigger to condition 22

The scheme has changed, as outlined above, and this has also resulted in changing the timing of the delivery of the different aspects of the proposal.

The planning application form sets out that the development is to be carried out in phases with work on the grass pitches being the final phase of work that is likely to be some 5 years after commencement of work on the site. It is therefore not necessary for this to be a '*Prior to the commencement of development*' condition.

Again, the FF and the RFL, acting as Sport England's technical advisers in respect of their sport facilities, have not raised any issues over this.

The planning condition will still provide a sport facility that is fit for purpose.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Sport England has **no objection** to the proposal.

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,

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Planning Manager