

From: [Rajvir Bahey](#)
To: [Planning \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: App Ref: SMD/2021/0301 - Draycott Sports Centre - Sport England Ref: 58885
Date: 02 July 2021 13:19:38

Dear Lisa Jackson,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Sport England – Non Statutory Role and Policy

The Government, within their Planning Practice Guidance (Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities Section) advises Local Planning Authorities to consult Sport England on a wide range of applications. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space#open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities>

Sport England assesses this type of application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and against its own planning objectives, which are Protect - To protect the right opportunities in the right places; Enhance - To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision; Provide - To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations. Further information on the objectives and Sport England's wider planning guidance can be found on its website:

<https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

The Proposal and Assessment against Sport England's Objectives and the NPPF

The proposal entails the conversion of two existing tennis courts to form two covered padel tennis courts and one mini tennis practice area with additional parking spaces and using existing access from road at Draycott Sports Centre Ltd. The proposal would result in the loss of two full size tennis courts which according to the Playing Pitch Strategy & Action Plan 2017 (PPS) were identified as good. The PPS identified that there was spare capacity at the site due to the provision of indoor courts to accommodate future demand expressed by the Club. Further to this it was identified that all non club courts had spare capacity with focus on the latter being the improving the standard of current courts rather than increasing the number of courts.

Sport England consulted the LTA with regard to the proposal but no comments were received. However, it is noted that the Council's Parks and Leisure Team have commented on the proposal highlighting that the demand for tennis in the area is relatively low in comparison to the number of courts available so there will not be a big impact on availability in the area. The comments continue that due to the padel courts being covered it enable a greater opportunity for play then existing courts which can only be utilised during fair weather. It also acknowledge that the provision of padel courts and small junior courts, will provide further possibilities for the tennis club to provide wider opportunities for physical activity and for the facility to be more attractive to local residents, local school and community groups. The inclusion of some disability car parking is also stated as being useful for attracting a key target group into the game.

Conclusion

On the basis of the above Sport England considers that the application is consistent with the following policy objective enhance with the proposal introducing a different form of tennis provision which is covered, this would help increase physical activity at the site with the tennis offer being increased and the hours of participation also increasing.

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.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, Sport England would like to be notified in advance of the meeting date(s) and the publication of any agenda(s) and report(s). Sport England would also like to be notified of the outcome of the application through the receipt of 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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Sport England



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