From: Rajvir Bahey
Sent: 01 August 2023 17:07
To: Planning (SMDC)
Subject: App Ref: SMD/2023/0349 - Endon Cricket Club - Sport England Ref:65172

Dear Lisa Jackson,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

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 2021 (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 (in particular Para. 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 the below link:
https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

The Proposal and Assessment

The proposal at Endon Cricket Club entails the provision of a changing facility on playing field land. In viewing Google Earth Imagery the facility is proposed to be sited to the recently approved cricket nets and it does not encroach onto the cricket pitch and its run off area.

The proposed facility provides 3 separate team changing rooms, including one suitable for the disabled. The largest two changing rooms would be self contained with a WC and 3 shower cubicles. It is noted that the facility is proposed to meet the Club's existing demand whilst also ensuring that there is sufficient provision to meet the Club's future growth plans. The Council's Playing Pitch Strategy also identifies the following recommendation "explore funding opportunities to create a new changing facility which will adequately meet the demands of all teams at the Club" for the Endon Cricket Club site.

Sport England consulted the ECB with the body supporting the proposal in principle with no impact on the playing field site, though the following design comments were raised:

- Privacy screen is required for disabled / 3rd changing space.
- Confirmation that this design meets DDI compliance as the external doors look narrow and the addition of privacy screens may make access difficult.
- Cubicle showers will need more room than shown in the plan as only a shower tray image is used.
- The 3rd changing room could be made smaller to enable additional space for the main changing rooms and showers.

Having assessed the application, Sport England is satisfied that the proposed development meets exception 2 of our playing fields policy, in that:

'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.'

This being the case, Sport England **does not wish to raise an objection** to this application. However, it is considered that the applicant should review the layout of the proposal taking account of the above comments raised by the ECB.

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.

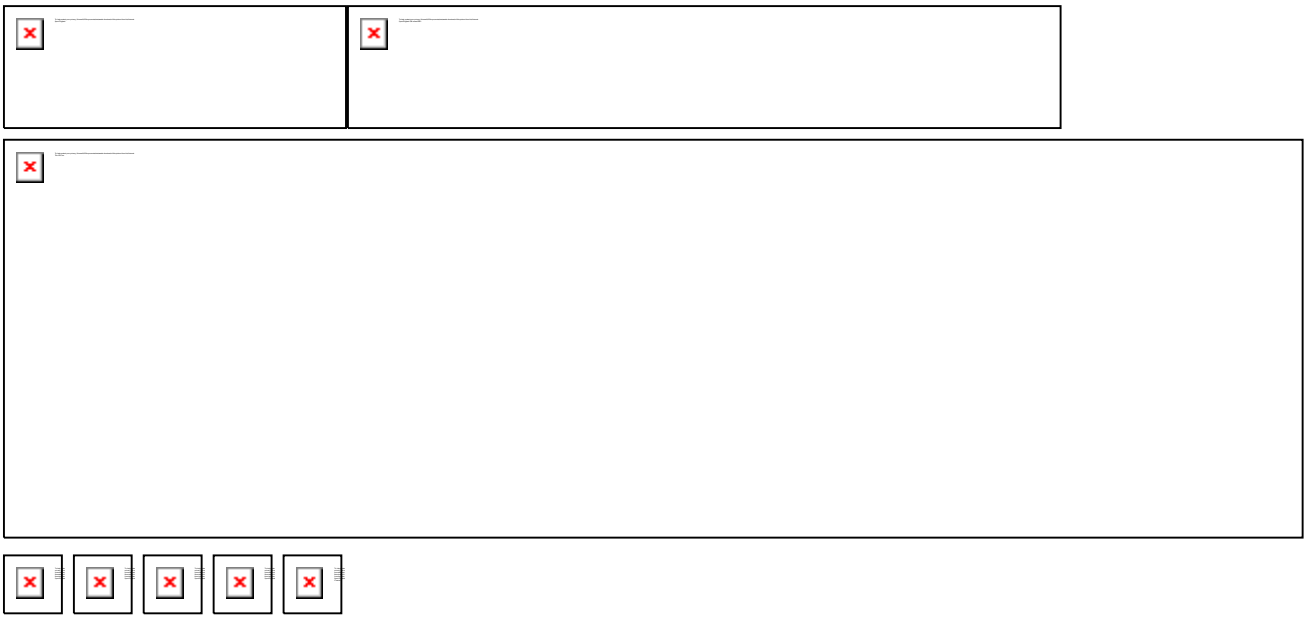
If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Rajvir Bahey

Planning Manager

Planning & Active Environments



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