

From: Sharron Wilkinson <Sharron.Wilkinson@sportengland.org>
Sent: 29 January 2024 15:33
To: Planning Folder New
Subject: App No: 23/01164/FUL - Sports Hall with changing facilities, classrooms and car parking at Redmoor High School Academy Trust, Hinckley - Sport England ref: PA/23/EM/HIN/66445
Attachments: App No: 23/01164/FUL - Sports Hall with changing facilities, classrooms and car parking at Redmoor High School Academy Trust, Hinckley - Sport England ref: PA/23/EM/HIN/66445

Dear Joseph,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on additional information submitted for the above application. Sport England has previously made comments on this proposal in our consultation response dated 4 January 2024 (copy attached).

The additional information relevant to Sport England's comments relate to the submission of an amended site plan; Internal and external lighting plans and amended car parking plan.

As part of the assessment of this additional information Sport England has sought the views of Badminton England (BE) and the Football Foundation (FF) who act as Sport England's technical advisors in relation to their sport and its facilities. Their comments on the additional information are summarised as follows:

BE

- While the light levels and uniformity figures are suitable for community and league badminton play, they recommend that the lights are positioned off the badminton playing court area where possible to ensure the hall is best suited for badminton. The wall colour should be green or blue if possible to ensure the best visibility of the shuttle.
- BE confirm that this area has a lower number of badminton sites compared to the UK average (15 compared to UK average of 25) and fewer courts when compared to the national average (40 courts compared to UK average of 80). This impacts on the availability and access to local courts/facilities.
- There are 3 coaches in the local area (2 at level 2 and 1 at level 1) meaning that there is some workforce in the area.

FF

- The FF is satisfied in principle with the specifications of the sports hall.
- If the sports hall is to be used by non-sports hall users (e.g. Parents, spectators etc.) then there should be some segregation of facilities for safeguarding reasons.
- The windows shown on the changing rooms should be obscurely glazed.

Assessment of Additional Information against Sport England Policy/NPPF

The proposal would lead to the loss of playing field land. The proposal therefore needs to be considered against the exceptions in Sport England's policy which accord with the specified justifications included in paragraph 103 of the NPPF. Sport England has assessed the proposal against exception 5 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy (which is in accordance with paragraph 103 c) of the NPPF) which states:

The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.'

The additional information submitted relates to further information on the technical suitability of the proposed sports hall. Both Badminton England and the Football Foundation confirm that they are satisfied, in principle, with the specification of the sports hall building. Badminton England do make recommendations on the position of the internal lighting to ensure that the hall is best suited for badminton. The Football Foundation also make recommendations on the need for the changing room windows to be obscurely glazed for safeguarding reasons and, as previously raised by

Sport England, the need for any facilities provided for spectators such as toilets, to be kept separate from users of the changing rooms.

Factors such as the need for the facility, community availability, local level of pitch provision and replacement playing field have already been demonstrated in the original submission and covered in Sport England's consultation response dated 4 January 2024.

Conclusion

Based on the additional information submitted, Sport England has no further comments to make to its previous consultation response and so has no objections to this proposal provided the planning conditions and informatives are attached to the decision notice if the local planning authority is minded to approve the proposal:

Protection of Playing Field

Condition.....Prior to the commencement of any development on the site, a construction fence shall be erected along the western boundary of the proposed building as shown in red on the Location Plan (Drw No: 01 rev P2) . This construction fence line (limit of works) shall remain in place throughout the duration of the construction activity and no works/storage shall take place on the playing field area which lies outside of this fence.

Reason.....To ensure that there is no impediment to the ability to use the retained playing field at the site during construction of the approved development in accordance with the requirements of the NPPF (2023).

A pre-commencement condition is required to ensure that this construction fence is in place prior to any development commencing on site to ensure that the construction activity does not encroach onto the adjoining playing field and impact its use.

Community Use Agreement

Condition ... No development shall commence above foundation level of the building hereby approved until a community use agreement prepared in consultation with Sport England has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority, and a copy of the completed approved agreement has been provided to the local planning authority. The agreement shall include use of the sports hall, fitness suite, changing rooms, external grass playing pitches, non turf cricket wicket and external netball/tennis courts along with access to the car park and shall include details of pricing policy, hours of use, access by non-educational establishment users, management responsibilities and a mechanism for review. The development shall not be used otherwise than in strict compliance with the approved agreement.

Reason ... To secure well managed safe community access to the sport facility and the remaining playing field land to ensure sufficient benefit to the development of sport and to accord with the NPPF (2023).

Informatives:

1. More information on Community Use Agreements including a model template is available on Sport England's website: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport/community-use-agreements>
2. The proposed windows on Changing Room A and Changing Room B should be obscurely glazed.
3. Where possible, the position of the internal lights in the sports hall should be positioned off the badminton playing court area to ensure the hall is best suited for badminton.

If you wish to amend the wording or use another mechanism in lieu of the above conditions, please discuss the details with the undersigned. Sport England does not object to amendments to its recommended conditions, provided they achieve the same outcome and it is consulted on any amendments.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, Sport England would like to be notified in advance of the meeting date and the publication of any committee agendas 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.

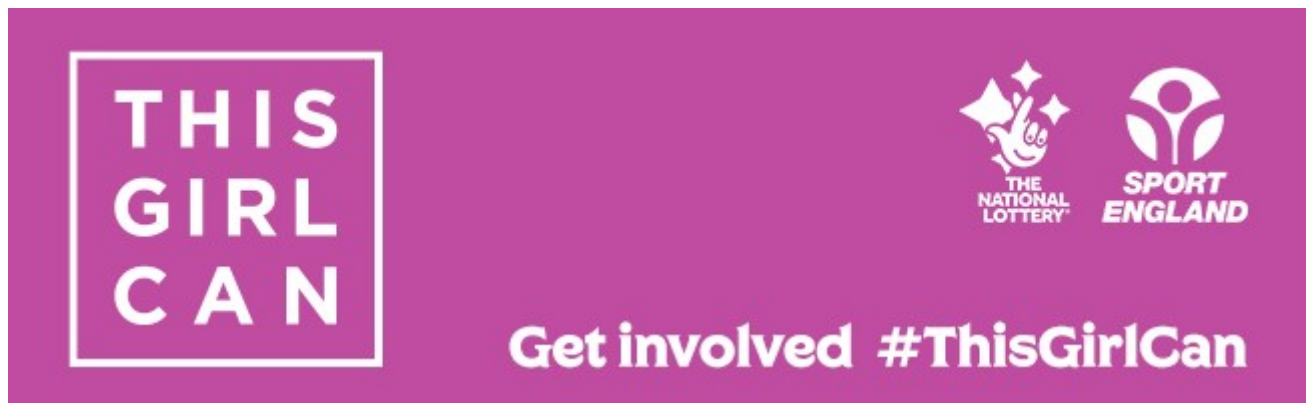
Yours sincerely,

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