

From: Sharron Wilkinson <Sharron.Wilkinson@sportengland.org>
Sent: 18 May 2023 12:20
To: Planning Folder
Subject: App No: 23/00268/FUL - Food Retail Unit and Extension to Existing Club Shop at Leicester Road FC, Hinckley - Sport England Ref: PA/23/EM/HIN/64541

Dear Christopher Brown,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Sport England – Statutory Role and Policy

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field 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 (in particular Paragraph 99 and the presumption that playing fields should not be developed) and against its own playing fields policy which is presented within its 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document:'

www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy.

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of all/part of a playing field. Exceptions to this policy are contained within the Playing Fields Policy Document.

The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

The proposal relates to:

1) the construction of a two storey extension attached to an existing building to provide a club shop at ground floor level and storage at first floor level; and, 2) a single storey extension attached to the existing stands to provide a food outlet.

Sited on playing field, the extensions would be located around the adult football pitch.

As part of the assessment of this consultation, Sport England has sought the views of the Football Foundation (FF) who act as Sport England's technical advisor in relation to football and its facilities. Their comments are summarised as:

- The FF confirm that this application would not have an impact on the pitch or its run off area.
- The FF has no concerns regarding the internal layouts proposed.
- The FF is supportive of this application.

Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF

The proposal would be sited on playing field. Sport England considers proposals of this nature against exception 2 of our playing fields policy which states:

'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.'

In assessing whether a proposal meets exception E2, facilities should be of an appropriate scale and comply with relevant Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport design guidance. They should also have no impact on the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use. The advice from the Football Foundation is that the extensions would not adversely affect the use of the playing pitch and that they have no concerns about the internal layouts proposed.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Sport England has **no objection** to the proposal which would meet exception E2 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and the requirements of Paragraph 99 of the NPPF in that the extensions would support the principle use of the playing pitch and would not adversely affect its use.

If you wish to discuss the above further please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

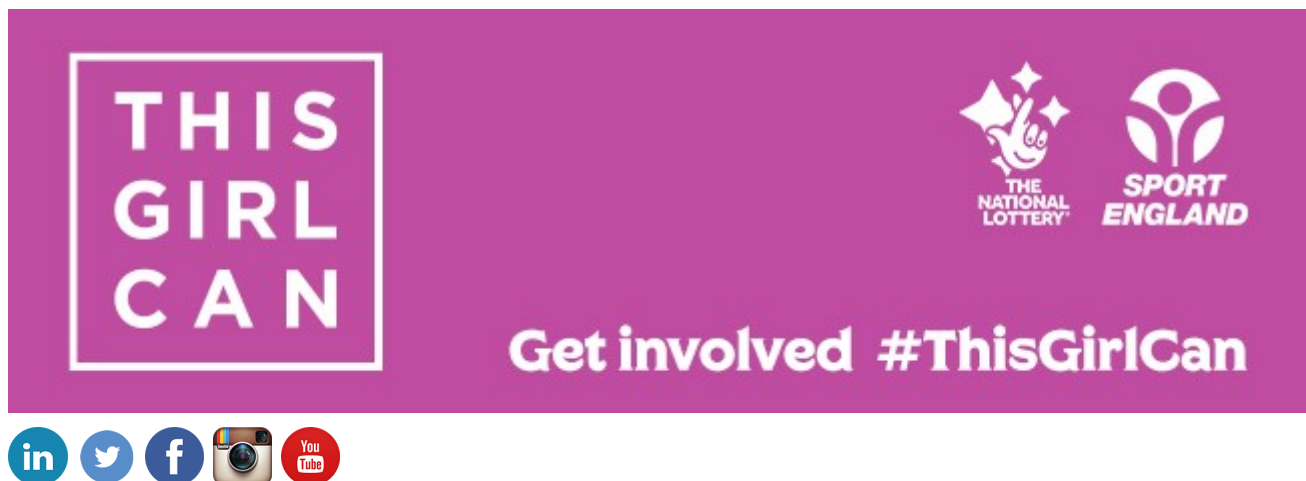
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