

Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

FAO: Ashleigh Gade

By email

19 November 2025

**Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England)
Order 2015**

Application Reference: 25/01023/FUL

**Proposal: Replacement and extension of existing perimeter fencing and the
installation of ball stop netting**

Location: Jubilee Playing Fields, Altar Stones Lane, Markfield, LE67 9PX

Reference: PA/25/EM/NWL/72248

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Sport England – Statutory consultee role and policy

We understand that you have consulted us as a statutory consultee in line with the above Order. Therefore, we have considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular paragraph 104, and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within our '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 prejudice the use of:

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field land 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.

The Proposal and its Impact on the playing field

The proposal would involve the construction of a replacement fence around the perimeter of the adult football pitch. The existing fence bounds three sides of the

pitch and the proposal would include an extension whereby the new perimeter fencing would bound the whole of the pitch. Constructed to a height of 1.1 metres, the extra heavy duty uprights and top rails would have twin mesh steel mesh panel inserts.

A removable ball stop netting system would also be constructed along the northwestern boundary of the pitch with posts at a height of 6.0 metres which are set at 5.0 metre centres. 120mm mesh, 2.5mm thick HDPE netting would be used to stop large sporting balls for football and 48mm mesh, 2mm thick HDPE netting to stop smaller sporting balls for cricket.

Located on playing field the proposal would result in the loss of playing field at the site and could have a prejudicial impact on the use of the playing pitches at the site.

As part of the assessment of this proposal Sport England has sought the views of the Football Foundation (FF) who act as Sport England's technical advisors in relation to their sport and its facilities. The FF confirm that the 1.1 metre high infilled fencing would meet FA technical standards and are supportive of extending this fence to enclose the pitch. They do raise concern about the Block Plan which is not labelled and the exact location of installation area as shown in the Additional Information. There is a need to ensure that safety run-off areas are provided for users of the pitch. However, they confirm that given that the proposal is primarily a replacement of pitch perimeter fencing, the detail submitted in the proposed plans do not appear to impact the use of the playing pitch.

Assessment against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and 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 proposal to replace the existing fencing around three sides of the pitch with fencing around the whole of the pitch has been welcomed by the FF. They confirm that the proposed design of the perimeter fencing would meet FA technical standards. The Block Plan has not been labelled although it is assumed that the red line around the playing field indicates the proposed location of the perimeter fencing and the solid red line along the northwestern boundary indicates the siting of the ball stop netting. Whilst further information on the safety run-off

measurements to be provided should have been included with the application submission, in this case, as confirmed by the FF, given that the proposal is primarily a replacement of pitch perimeter fencing, the submitted plans do not appear to impact on the use of the playing pitch. This being the case, the proposal would not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches at the site.

Based on the above, it is considered that the proposal would meet exception 2 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and the requirements of Paragraph 104 of the NPPF (2024).

Sport England's Position

Given the above, Sport England raises **no objection** to the application which is considered to accord with exception 2 of our playing fields policy and the requirements of paragraph 104 of the NPPF in that the proposed pitch perimeter fencing and ball stop fencing would support the use of the site as a playing field and would not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the comments made by the Football Foundation that any replacement fencing should continue to be sited so that sufficient safety run-off areas are provided around the pitch for users of the pitch.

Yours sincerely,

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