SPORT ENGLAND

Creating sporting opportunities in every community

David Kiernan
Hinckley and Bosworth
Council Offices
Argents Mead
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 1BZ

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
11 MAR 2009
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11 MAR 2009

Your reference: 09/00012/DEEM

10th March 2009

Dear Mr Kiernan

Our ref: EM/HIN/2009/16289/S
New Lighting column on Langdale Recreational ground, Hinckley

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

The development will have an impact on playing fields. A playing field is defined in the 1996 Statutory Instrument No.1817 as the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch. In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and its playing field policy, Sport England will object to the loss of any area within playing fields to development unless one of five exceptions is met. The exceptions relate to the following:-

E1 - A proven excess of provision.
E2 - The use is ancillary to the playing field.
E3 - The site is incapable of forming part of a pitch.
E4 - Equivalent or better replacement will be provided elsewhere.
E5 - An alternative sports use is proposed, outweighing loss

Sport England has considered this application in the light of its playing fields policy. The aim of this policy is to ensure that there is an adequate supply of quality pitches to satisfy the current and estimated future demand for pitch sports within the area. The policy seeks to protect all parts of the playing field from development and not just those which, for the time being, are laid out as pitches. The policy states that;

" 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 last used as a playing field or allocated for use as a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan, unless, in the judgement of Sport England, one of the Specific circumstances applies."

Reason; Development which would lead to the loss of all or part of a playing field, or which would prejudice its use, should not normally be permitted because it would permanently reduce the opportunities for participation in sporting activities. Government planning policy and the policies of Sport England have recognised the importance of such activities to the social an economic well-being of the country.

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The proposal comprises the installation of a single 8m high tubular steel lighting column. The MUGA and other works at Langdale Park are not part of the consultation and are not therefore under consideration as part of this this proposal. The lighting column is considered ancillary to the use of the playing field increasing the ability to use the park. The proposal is considered to be in accordance with the abovementioned policy as it satisfies exception E2.

I would be grateful if you would advise me of the outcome of the application by sending me a copy of the decision notice to enable the completion of the database required by central government.

Yours sincerely



Steve Beard
Planning Manager
Email: steve.beard@sportengland.org
Tel 020 7273 1770

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Tracy Drake
Development Services and Policy Manager
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Leicestershire
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9th March 2009

Dear Tracey

Langdale Recreation Ground, Hinckley

You will no doubt be aware that Sport England was recently consulted on a proposal for a lighting column at the Langdale Recreation Ground off Broderick Road, Hinckley, your ref: 09/00012/DEEM. Sport England has responded to the consultation on that application.

The proposed location of the lighting column was submitted on a landscape master plan for the whole site, in addition the Design and Access statement advises that a new Multi-Use Games Area is being installed (Expected completion by the end of January 2009). Normally Sport England would be consulted on applications for Multi Use Games Area's we are not aware of any consultation on this facility. The landscape master plan also indicates that a new car park is proposed along with, relocated BMX track, drainage works for the cricket pitch and football pitch, a hard surface footpath network, a new Children's Play area, proposed extension to the existing Pavilion and earthworks all of which effect a playing field. I am not aware of any consultation with Sport England on the abovementioned matters in particular the installation of the MUGA. We appreciate that an application may not yet been made for those proposals which constitute development.

Please note that, a playing field is defined in the 1996 Statutory Instrument No.1817 as the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch. In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and its playing field policy, Sport England will object to the loss of any area within playing fields to development unless one of five exceptions is met. The exceptions relate to the following:-

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E1 - A proven excess of provision.
E2 - The use is ancillary to the playing field.
E3 - The site is incapable of forming part of a pitch.
E4 - Equivalent or better replacement will be provided elsewhere.
E5 - An alternative sports use is proposed, outweighing loss

I would be grateful if you could ensure that Sport England is consulted on applications for development in your administrative area which affect playing fields. Also other development were consultation is non-statutory but should nevertheless be undertaken. Please see the attached a guidance note in this regard, which I hope is helpful.

I would also take this opportunity to draw your attention to our comments on application 07/01030/FUL which was accepted by Sport England as meeting Exception E3 on the basis that capital receipts from development on a separate part of the site would be used to facilitate the improvements to the park. The Design and access statement submitted with the floodlight application that funding has been provided through the Big Lottery's Children Fund. I would be grateful for an update on the position with this residential development.

Yours sincerely

Steve Beard

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Planning Manager
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Planning Application Consultations with Sport England

Given recent developments in E-Government and the associated implications for consultations on planning applications, Sport England felt that it was an appropriate time to remind Local Planning Authorities of the arrangements for consulting Sport England.

Under Circular 08/2005 Sport England has a duty to respond to consultations on planning applications within 21 days starting from the date we receive the consultation. We hope to respond well within that period particularly if the advice regarding the value of pre-application consultations has been followed. Our response time can also be affected by the quality of the information we receive. The 21 day period does not start if we have not received sufficient information to enable us to make a substantive reply. Sport England has prepared the attached checklist of information we will use as the basis of considering whether or not the information we receive is adequate to enable us to make a substantive response.

Sport England will accept consultations where they are either sent electronically, or notified that details of the application are available to view and download on the local authority website. Where this happens, we expect the application to contain the information set out on the attached checklist to allow us to accept the application for response within 21 days. We will not accept applications which, when viewing the website, have broken links.

We would also urge local authorities to ensure that where they have scanned in plans, that they have done so to the correct scale as where plans cannot be viewed or printed at the appropriate scale we will not accept that application, thus delaying the 21 day response period.

Should a Local Planning Authority wish to consult with us electronically, details of the consultation and a link to all required information should be emailed to infoem@sportengland.org.uk

Most officers are aware of the requirement to consult with us in respect of developments prejudicing or leading to the loss of use of a playing field (not just a pitch) or land allocated for such use. However, another statutory consultation worth drawing attention to is the requirement to consult if the development involves the replacement of a grass surface on a playing field with an artificial, man made or composite surface.

Although uses such as individual tennis courts and bowling greens do not normally fall within the definition of a playing field our advice is that these can fall within the definition of a playing field if they form part of a larger site that meets the definition.

I would also take this opportunity to remind officers involved in deciding when to consult with us that the basis for non-statutory consultations was set out in the a letter dated 22nd July 1996 from the Department of the Environment to all Chief Planning Officers. The list of applications included:-

- Proposals that would lead to the loss of a body of water of two hectares or more currently or within the last two years in use for water sports
- The loss of use for sport of such a body of water

- The loss of or loss of use for sport of any major sports facility (eg. Community sports halls, swimming pool, golf course, water sports centre, athletics track or indoor tennis centre)
- The creation of a site for one or more playing pitches
- The floodlighting of a major outdoor sports facility
- The creation of a body of water of two hectares or more
- The creation of any other major sports facility
- A residential development of 300 dwellings or more
- The working of winning of minerals

In practice some authorities consult with us on the loss of any sports facilities and the design of any sports facilities including club houses and changing rooms. When considered desirable we have specialist architectural advice available. There is also detailed guidance regarding the design of sports facilities available on our website in the form of Design Guidance Notes. These can be downloaded.

Other useful resources available from our website are in the Planning Contributions Kit-bag section at

http://www.sportengland.org/index/get_resources/planning_for_sport_front_page/kitbag_front_page.htm

In addition to the requirement in Circular 08/05 for us to provide a report on our response times our database is also required to produce reports identifying the area of playing fields lost to development and on potential new investment into sport. Decision notices and copies of Planning Obligations relating to our areas of interest are, therefore, essential.