

Our Ref: 4594/0402/240408/JG
Your Ref: 23/01135/FUL



08th April 2024

Alex Jelley
Development Services
Planning Consultant
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Hinckley Hub, Rugby Rd
Hinckley, Leicestershire,
LE10 0FR

Dear Alex,

Re: The erection of a new two-storey boxing gym with associated parking & outdoor activity areas – Formal Consultation Response to Sport England.

Further to receipt of Sport England comments received 18/03/2024 and further comments received 20/03/2024, please find below our formal response which addresses the concerns raised.

Sport England

- Consultation Response Received: 18/03/2024 & 20/03/2024.
- Consultation Provided by: Sharon Wilkinson on behalf of Sport England.

Summary of comments:

Sport England provided feedback after reviewing the Ball Strike Assessment (V3) report prepared by Labosport. Their comments affirmed the specifics of the fencing, encompassing height, length, and positioning as outlined in the report's plan. Additionally, it was noted that the applicant was not informed of pre-application comments due to a clerical error by Hinckley Bosworth Borough Council. Confirmation was received regarding the previous land use and absence of contamination, with no objections raised by the Council's Environmental Services Department. Furthermore, it was assured that any feedback from England Boxing to the client would be shared with Sport England. Assurances were given that the proposed access/carparking would not hinder spectator parking provision. Amended plans (101P7) were submitted, reflecting fencing details as per the Labosport V3 report. The ECB, supporting Sport England, raised inquiries about consultation with Hinckley Town Cricket Club and approval for constructing and maintaining netting on land outside the applicant's ownership. Additionally, the ECB reviewed the application in line with NPPF paragraph 103 to ascertain whether the proposal sufficiently benefits outweigh the loss of playing field land. This included clarifying how ball strike netting would be managed by the applicant and whether the fencing aligns with council perspectives. On 20/03/2024, it was confirmed that alternative mitigation methods such as signage were deemed unacceptable, and only proposals endorsed by Labosport would be considered.

Corporate Architecture Ltd Response:

Following the feedback received from Sport England, we have conducted extensive consultations involving our client, Labosport, as well as the key stakeholders and landowners, including Hinckley Rugby Football Club and Hinckley Town Cricket Club. These consultations have led to several beneficial revisions to the previously submitted information.

Our initial step involved re-engaging with Hinckley Town Cricket Club to address concerns raised by the ECB regarding the ball strike netting focusing on the worst-case scenario. The primary discussion centred around the utilisation of the current cricket facility, distinguishing between wickets used by recreational level players and those used by junior players. Through these discussions, it was established that only 10 recreational level wickets are currently in use, positioned farthest from our access road. The remaining wickets located closer to the access road are designated for junior cricket use exclusively and as such, the fencing required should be designed to reflect these parameters.

Additionally, the layout of the fencing was discussed, with consensus reached that aligning it with the cricket circle boundary would be preferable over following the line of the proposed access road. This decision was made to avoid

hindrances to ongoing grounds maintenance and to ensure a clear boundary delineating the cricket pitch, thus preventing any appearance of oversight.

Following the above confirmations, we proceeded to commission a revised ball strike assessment by LaboSport. This assessment incorporates the reduced ball travel distances from the Junior wickets and the adjusted proximity of the fencing to the cricket circle. The resulting report (refer to attached **LSUK.24-0049_CBA_V4**) outlined several positive changes to the previously planned fencing. These alterations include a reduction in the quantity of fencing required and a significant decrease in fence heights. In the areas of greatest concern, heights have been reduced from 15 meters to 8 meters, resulting in a substantially diminished visual impact. We firmly believe that these changes will alleviate any potential concerns from Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council regarding visual impacts.

Upon receiving the revised report, we have updated our proposed site plan (refer to attached documents **101P9 – Proposed Site Plan Showing Access & 100P12 Proposed Site Plan**) to align with the adjusted fencing locations as detailed in the Labosport Version 4 report. It's important to note that the fencing depicted in Corporate Architecture Ltd proposals has been divided into regular bay sizes following consultations with specialists. Final post centres are subject to the design of the appointed installation contractor.

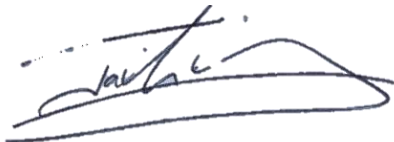
To address the concerns of the ECB, we can confirm that on 6 February 2024, the Applicant provided Hinckley Town Cricket Club with a copy of the Labosport report, seeking permission for the installation of the recommended netting on the club's land, pending the success of the application and project. Hinckley Town Cricket Club promptly granted consent, thereby securing landowner approval. The Applicant clarified to the club that all installation costs would be borne by them. Subsequently, a formal agreement was reached between the Trustees of the Heart of England Community Boxing Club and The Trustees of The Hinckley Town Cricket Club, documented in a Deed of Agreement signed by both parties. This agreement outlines terms including the installation and ongoing maintenance costs of the revised ball strike netting as detailed in the attached report and plans. Please refer to the attached document labeled 4594-050424-Ball Strike Signed Deed of Agreement for further details.

Whilst the above matters have been progressing, we are pleased to enclose a formal letter of support from Ellie Davis, the England Boxing Club Support Officer for the East Midlands, who has expressed support for the Heart of England Boxing club's project to build the Christian Hobbs Gym, a state-of-the-art facility. Acknowledging boxing's popularity and success in engaging various demographics, Ellie Davis has reiterated the importance of such projects for community outreach and physical activity. Finally, England Boxing pledges their partnership, assistance with setup and funding, and endorsement for funding applications to ensure the project's success. Please see attached **England Boxing - Ellie Davis Letter of Support**.

Drawings, Documents & Reports Submitted in Support of the Above

- 100P12 – Proposed Site Plan
- 101P9 – Proposed Site Plan Showing Access
- LSUK.24-0049_CBA_V4
- England Boxing - Ellie Davis Letter of Support.
- 4594-050424-Ball Strike Signed Deed of Agreement

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jack Geary', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Jack Geary, Senior Architectural Technologist, Corporate Architecture Ltd.
For and On Behalf of Heart of England Community Boxing Club.