

For the attention of Arwel Evans

Dear Mr. Evans

Planning Application No: 21/00837/FUL – The King Edmund School, Vaughan Close, Rochford, SS4 1TL (Sport England Ref: PA/21/E/ROC/59533)

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 or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, 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 (NPPF) (in particular Para. 97), and against its own playing fields policy, which states:

'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 which has been used as a playing field and 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.'

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document can be viewed via the below link: www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy

Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF

In summary, the application involves the demolition of King Edmund School's main school block and its replacement with a new school block with associated landscaping on the western part of the school site. The development would not directly affect the school's playing field to the east of the site or the games court to the west of the site. The new building would result in the loss of some small grassed amenity areas on the west side of the site but these would not be considered suitable for formal sport due to their limited size and they are entirely separated from the playing field by school buildings. While temporary classbases would be sited on various car parks around the site during the construction programme, these car parks are understood to be not used by community users of the school's sports facilities. Community access to the artificial grass pitch, natural turf playing field and indoor sports facilities from the car park to the north of the school site would appear to be maintained throughout the construction programme and vehicular access to the construction site for construction vehicles would not be permitted during the evenings and weekends when the sports facilities are being used by the community. It would therefore not appear that the construction related activities would prejudice the use of the playing field or other sports facilities for school or community use.

Having assessed the application, Sport England is satisfied that the proposed development meets the following Sport England Policy exception:

3 - The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of, or inability to make use of any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins), a reduction in the size of the playing area of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facility on the site.

Conclusion

Further to the above assessment, Sport England **does not wish to raise an objection** to this application, nor do we wish to recommend any conditions should planning consent be granted.

We would be grateful if you would advise us of the outcome of the application by sending us a copy of the decision notice.

If you would like any further information or advice please contact me at the address below.

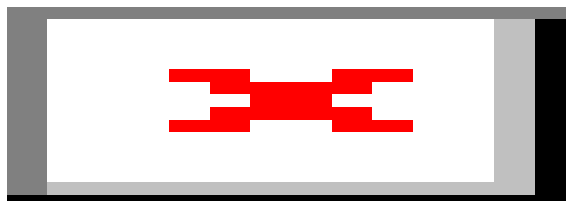
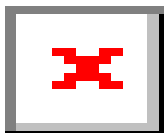
Yours sincerely,

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