

Andrew Gregory  
 Southampton City Council  
 Ground Floor  
 Civic Centre  
 SOUTHAMPTON  
 SO14 7LS

07 April 2015

Our Ref: SE/SU/2015/39351/S

Dear Andrew Gregory,

**App Ref:** 15/00273/FUL  
**Site:** 1 Copsewood Road Southampton SO18 1BU  
**Proposal:** Demolition of part of existing school boundary wall, enclosure of existing playing field with new gates and fence (height 2.1m), stopping up of the existing footpath and diversion to new route around perimeter of the fence.

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

It is understood that the site forms part of, or constitutes a playing field as defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010 (Statutory Instrument 2010 No. 2184)

The consultation is therefore statutory and Sport England has considered the application in the light of the National Planning Policy Framework (in particular Par 74) and its policy to protect playing fields, 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England (see link below).

<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>

Essentially 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/part of a playing field, unless one of 5 exceptions applies:

Sport England Policy	
Summary of Exceptions	
E1	An assessment has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing fields in the catchment and the site has no special significance for sport
E2	The Development is ancillary to the principal use of the playing field and does not affect the quantity/quality of pitches
E3	The Development only affects land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and would lead to no loss of ability to use/size of playing pitch
E4	Playing field lost would be replaced with equivalent or better playing field in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility
E5	The proposed development is for an indoor/outdoor sports facility of sufficient benefit to sport to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of playing field

Sport England appreciates the rationale behind this proposal and does not object to the principle of fencing this playing field off in order to make it secure for the school use and keep it fit for purpose when made available to the community.

However the whole playing field provides a benefit to sport including all run off areas surrounding the two football pitches. The areas outside the pitch is often used as warm up and coaching whilst the pitch is in use. This proposal by reason of the location of the proposed fence would sever the run off areas surrounding both pitches and prevent their use for formal sport.

Consequently Sport England suggest the applicant relocate the proposed 2.1 green weldmesh perimeter fencing to the boundaries of the playing field and not across useable parts of the playing field. In particular the fence to the north should be alongside the path and not across the field. The fence to the south should be relocated as far away from the pitch as possible. It also requests that the proposed two new trees to the south of the pitches be removed from the scheme as they would prevent the pitches from being slightly relocated which is frequently don't to reduce wear and tear of goalmouths.

In light of the above, Sport England **objects** to the proposal because is not considered to accord with any of the exceptions in Sport England's playing fields policy. However Sport England would be pleased to reconsider amended plans which address the concerns raised above.

Should your Council be minded to grant planning permission for the development then in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009, and the National Planning Policy Guidance the application should be referred to the National Planning Casework Unit.

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

Yours sincerely



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Planner

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