

Friends of Memorial Playing Fields

21 March 2013  
BY EMAIL ONLY

Our Ref: SE/WSC/2013/31700/P

Dear 

**Site:** Steyning Grammar School Horsham Road Steyning BN44 3AA  
**Proposal:** New Skatepark and relocation of existing car park

Thank you for consulting Sport England on your proposal.

It is planned to construct a skatepark on part of the existing car park at Steyning Leisure Centre. As a result of the proposed development, two options for replacement car parking on Steyning Grammar School's playing field land have been put forward.

Sport England considers proposals affecting playing fields in the light of its Playing Fields Policy: 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'. This is available online at:  
[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/putting\\_policy\\_into\\_practice/playing\\_fields.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/putting_policy_into_practice/playing_fields.aspx)

This policy statement defines in planning terms what is considered a 'Playing Field', which is; the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch. A playing pitch is a delineated area, which together with any run off is of 0.2 hectares or more.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that there is an adequate supply of quality pitches to satisfy the current and estimated future demands of the pitch sports. The policy identifies five exceptions to our normal position of opposing development, which would result in the loss of playing fields, as follows:

E1 - A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

E2 - The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use.

E3 - 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.

E4 - The playing field or playing fields which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development.

E5 - The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

Option one is to extend the existing car parking area to the north. Option two is to extend the existing car parking area to the west. Both options ensure that car parking, which serves the sports facilities at the leisure centre and school, are not reduced.

Both options are located on a section of the school's playing field that is enclosed by the existing car park, an artificial grass pitch and its access path, and the boundary of the site thus, reducing the areas ability to form part of a playing pitch. No existing pitches would be prejudiced by the proposal. Both options therefore have the potential to meet a combination of exceptions 3 and 5 of Sport England's playing field policy in that;

*E3 - "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 areas of any playing pitch or the loss of any other sporting/ancillary facilities on the site."*

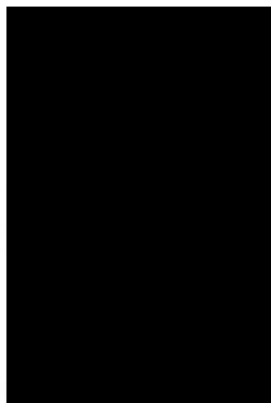
*E5 - "The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields."*

It is therefore unlikely that Sport England would object to the development in these locations.

Sport England reserves the right to object to any subsequent planning application if we do not consider that it accords with our playing fields policy.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



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