

Lisa Percival

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 August 2013 09:14
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field
Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Section 40 - Friends of MPF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 February 2013 18:00
To: [REDACTED] SE Officer
Subject: RE: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street
Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Thanks very much for letting me know [REDACTED] This is great news! Should you be reconsidering at a later date I would be grateful if you could let me know because I have now realised that there are additional attempts to mislead you in the Parish Council's communication and so, should it become relevant, I would like the opportunity to point them out, please. Thanks very much.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@sportengland.org]
Sent: 20 February 2013 17:40
To: [REDACTED] Section 40 - Friends of MPF
Subject: RE: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street
Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

As the amended plans and Steyning Parish Council's letter (both around the same time) did nothing to alter Sport England's position on the application, we did not issue any further correspondence.

I thank you again for the further information and attachments. Should Sport England be in a position to reconsider its position on the application, we will take these into consideration.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant Planner

[REDACTED]@sportengland.org



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National Sports Centre, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RR

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2013 13:19
To: [REDACTED] Section 40 - SE officer
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

I have just looked again at the summary of what the Parish council says it has sent you. They say they have told you that the skatepark is "close to toilets". This is absolutely untrue. The nearest public toilets are in the town centre car park. The Parish Council has told the planning department that it intends to build toilets on the other side of the MPF at the Cricket pavilion however it has put in no planning application, has no budget, and has told cricket club members it has no real intention of building them. This is just an empty promise intended to assist the current planning application.

They also report having told you that the site is easily accessible for wheel chair users. This is also untrue. The only access is at the top end of the Field across a proposed new track however this new track is separated from Mill Road by a long mud and chalk public footpath which the Parish Council has said it now has no intention of tarmacking (the Ramblers' Association objected to this). Wheelchair access up this path is completely impractical –as is emergency vehicle access when wet.

Regards,

[REDACTED] Section 40 - Friends of MPF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 February 2013 12:30
To: [REDACTED] section 40 - Friends of MPF
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

We were becoming a bit concerned that no further communication from Sport England has appeared on the HDC planning website since you raised your original objection. Now there is a letter from Steyning Parish Council indicating that it has written to ask you to consider your opinion on the ground that the site is unsuitable for football. I think I only need to attach this photograph which shows pitch markings to illustrate that this is absolutely untrue. Hope this helps,

Regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Section 40 - Friends of MPF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 February 2013 10:33
To: [REDACTED] Section 40 - SE officer
Subject: RE: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Great news, Simon. Thank you for letting me know. I am sorry if I have seemed a bit of a pest but I am sure you will understand how important this is to local people - and Sport England remains the biggest hope we have of defeating the application. The anxiety levels had been building.....!

Regards,

From: [REDACTED]@sportengland.org]
Sent: 06 February 2013 10:22
To: [REDACTED] Section 40 - Friends of MPF
Subject: RE: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

Having reviewed the further information submitted, I can confirm that Sport England maintains its current position i.e. objection.

Please be assured that we do receive your correspondence however, unfortunately we do not have the resource to respond on each occasion.

Regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant Planner



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National Sports Centre, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RR

From: [REDACTED] **Section 40 - Friends of MPF**

Sent: 05 February 2013 09:52

To: [REDACTED] **SE Officer**

Subject: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

I hope you are getting my messages ok?

A bit more information about the need for this pitch area on the MPF. Last weekend, although the Steyning footballers did not use the MPF because they wanted the turf not to be damaged after all the recent rain, the footballers from the next village turned up and trained here because their pitch was too muddy (somewhat to the annoyance of the locals). This helps to illustrate the existing need for as much playing and training space on the MPF as is possible.

Hope that this will assist in the formulation of your response to the HDC planners and that it does not reach you too late as I am guessing that the time for your response must be about up now?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] **Section 40 - Friends of MPF**

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 30 January 2013 09:33

To: [REDACTED] **Section 40 - SE Officer**

Subject: FW: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

Just to let you know that due to heavy demand and poor weather the condition of the pitch nearest the cricket square has deteriorated to the extent that it could not be used last weekend and probably will not be able to be used this coming weekend either. This does tend to emphasise the need for more pitch space, not less which will be the result if the skatepark is built – particularly prejudicial as the slightly higher ground at the Western side of the

MPF means that the area near the proposed skatepark tends to dry out quicker and so is sooner able to be used for football.

Kind Regards,
Paul

From: [REDACTED]@sportengland.org]

Sent: 21 January 2013 10:44 **Section 40 - Friends of MPF**

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for the additional information and plans you have sent through to me.

I will be reassessing the application in light of the amended plans and issuing a further response.

Kind regards



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National Sports Centre, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RR

From: [REDACTED] **Section 40 - Friends of MPF**

Sent: 19 January 2013 00:11 **Section 40 - SE Officer**

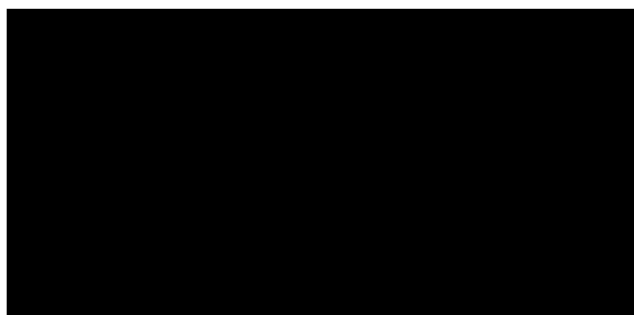
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to my message of 17th January, I am attaching an updated plan which shows the location of the second pitch currently located on the MPF

Kind Regards,



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2013 10:20
To: [REDACTED] Section 40 - SE officer
Subject: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Amended Plans re Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning
BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

I am afraid that the Parish Council has just ploughed on with the planning application without taking any account of what Sport England has said. In fact, worse than that, it has put in an amended design of a different shape which has a significantly worse impact on the playing field. It makes it impossible even to use the existing football pitch.

As mentioned previously, the planning procedures being adopted by Horsham District Council are decidedly odd. The new plans and drawings do not show their relationship to the site and area plans, nor do they show their relationship to the rest of the MPF and neighbouring properties etc. One would have expected HDC to have required this. Fortunately one of our team is an architect and he has done his best to show the new design on a Google Earth map, on which he has also shown the existing football pitch. I attach a copy. A clearer version is being worked on which shows the other pitch too and will follow. You will see how the new design, which is shaped rather like the prow of a ship, sticks out even further than the old and impinges badly on the pitch. It also would impinge badly if re-sited in the manner Sport England suggested.

I understand that HDC has written to you again, seeking your views because of this new design. I hope that you will feel able to reiterate Sport England's objection. Even more forcibly given the clearly prejudicial effect it will have for the football teams would obviously be great!

Interestingly, because of demand for playing space, the other pitch near the cricket square is already being used more than in the past and the Parish Clerk has been expressing concern about it being over-used. In the circumstances it seems quite extraordinary that the Parish Council is simultaneously doing its best to deprive the players of the existing second pitch near the skatepark; and this at a time when we are actually trying to get a third pitch onto the MPF due to the Strikers needing playing space (my first letter refers).

And all this prejudicial intention by the Parish Council comes just at a time when I understand that Sport England has funds and is trying to encourage grass roots football, something there is a clear demand for in Steyning, and which the Parish Council could take advantage of if it was not so focussed on creating this skatepark in this wholly unsuitable location.

If there is any further information you need, please do let me know.

Kind regards



Section 40 - Friends of MPF

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 22 December 2012 11:40
To: [Redacted] Section 40 - SE officer
Subject: RE: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE
Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [Redacted]

This is great news and has lifted the spirits of many local residents.

If I understand the process correctly this means that either SPC must withdraw the application, or HDC must refuse it, or HDC must refer the matter to the National Planning Casework unit. Am, I right in thinking that the latter does not actually make any decision but makes a recommendation as to whether the Secretary of State should call in the application or not?

I am not clear whether the National Planning casework unit and/ or the Secretary of State is limited to considering just the sport aspect of the matter or whether they will also have regard to those matters which HDC completely overlooked – its statutory duty to have regard to the National Park purposes, its statutory duty under S 40 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the Village Green legislation and also a large number of its own published planning protocols and policies. I am assuming the latter and so we would want to lodge something with the National Planning Casework unit (rather along the lines of my original letter to Sport England) which we hope might influence a decision for the Secretary of State to call it in.

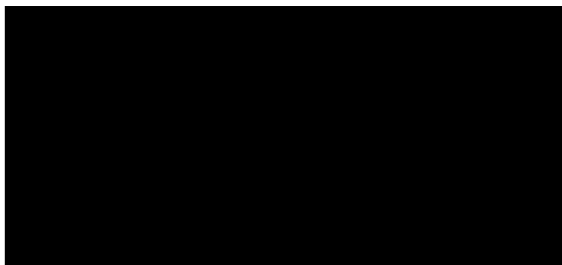
Both SPC and HDC are very hostile towards the objectors and are being as uncooperative as possible, for example although HDC has reluctantly accepted that we are entitled to lodge a sound engineer's report commenting on the one SPC has commissioned and intends to lodge, SPC has refused to agree to let us know when it is lodged or to let us have a copy when it is. Meanwhile HDC, whilst saying that we must lodge ours within a reasonable time after SPC sends theirs in, has said it will not tell us when it is lodged and so we are required to log onto the HDC planning website every day to see if it has uploaded a copy of the report. For this reason I am concerned that the matter could be referred to the NPC unit and a decision made by it without us even knowing this had happened, let alone getting the opportunity to write to the Unit.

Would you be informed if a referral was being made and if so might you be able to let me know, please?

Also, is it possible to see a copy of the additional information SPC lodged in reply to your initial letter, please?

Kind regards,

[Redacted]



From: [REDACTED]@sportengland.org]

Sent: 21 December 2012 14:46

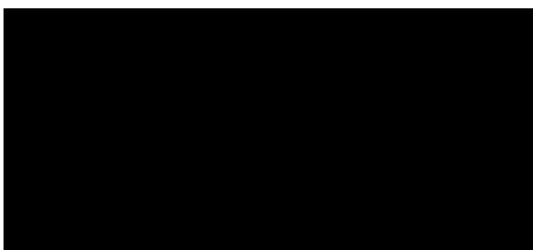
To: [REDACTED] Section 40 - Friends of MPF

Subject: RE: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE
Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

I attach Sport England's latest formal correspondence for your information.

Kind regards



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National Sports Centre, near Marlow, Buckinghamshire, SL7 1RR

From: [REDACTED] Section 40 - Friends of MPF

Sent: 20 December 2012 08:57

To: [REDACTED] Section 40 - SE Officer

Subject: RE: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE
Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]

I appreciate that there may be some sort of policy reason at Sport England which means it does not wish to enter into debate with members of the public however I would be grateful if you would confirm safe receipt of my messages so that I at least know you are seized of the information I have forwarded, please.

Also, I would like to clarify what I said in my previous message. I had thought that a hedgerow which was protected by the Hedgerow Regulations was also "important" under them. That was mistaken. We have satisfied Horsham District Council that the hedgerow is indeed protected and so consent would be needed to uproot or cut down any part of it, however it turns out that the question of "importance" is a question which only falls to be determined if the Parish Council was applying for consent or was intending to act in breach. We have provided information which we are satisfied will show the statutory grounds of "importance" are made out should the question ever arise.

Sincerely



Section 40 - Friends of MPF

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 December 2012 19:29
To: [REDACTED]@sportengland.org'
Subject: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]
I refer to my message of 26th November, which I hope you received OK?

This is just to add some information about the danger posed by the hedgerow which would be immediately adjacent to the skatepark, thus making the location inappropriate according to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. We have been undertaking some research and have now established to the satisfaction of Horsham District Council that this hedgerow is an "important" one under the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations. The protection given to this hedgerow by the Regulations means that there is always going to be an irreconcilable tension between the Parish Council's duty to safeguard those using the skatepark and its duty to safeguard the hedgerow. Perhaps this is another matter you might think it appropriate to seek clarification about from the applicant?

Sincerely

From: [REDACTED] Section 40 - Friends of MPF
Sent: 26 November 2012 23:46
To: [REDACTED]@sportengland.org'
Subject: Your Ref: SE/HO/2012/30140/S Site: Memorial Playing Field Charlton Street Steyning BN44 3LE Proposal: Installation of skateboard facility

Dear [REDACTED]
Horsham DC has uploaded a copy of your letter of 23rd November to its planning website. As a result I can see that you have asked the applicant to provide:-

- plans showing the existing and proposed playing pitch layouts of the site
- further clarity with regards to the Parish Council's discussions with the Strikers Football Team regarding the provision of an additional pitch.

I am not sure whether you saw the letter I sent to Sport England on 8th November, but in case not I attach a copy. What may not be apparent unless you did see that letter is that the skatepark illustrated in the planning application and on the aerial view is indicative only. What will actually be constructed will be a matter for approval by a planning sub-committee after new plans are submitted by the applicant. The public is to be excluded from that process.

Accordingly, may I respectfully suggest that in addition to what you have already asked for, it would be appropriate for you to also request detailed sectional and area plans of what the Parish Council actually wants to build, to include positioning and height of the proposed earth bunding which is to surround the site in order to try to attenuate the noise? I am attaching a new aerial montage which includes our best guess as to the area of land which will have the bunding on it. You will see what a significant effect the skatepark and associated bunding will have on the proposed pitches ; indeed we think the skatepark will make the pitches impossible, however judgment on that question by Sport England is only going to be possible if it knows what it is that is actually proposed to be built.

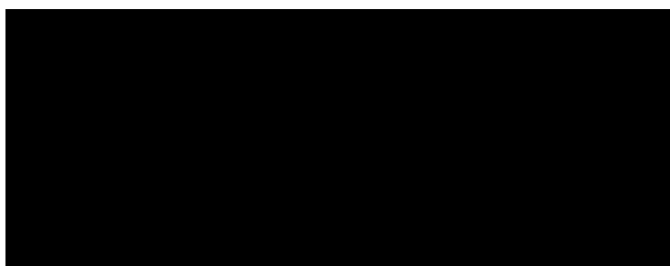
Also please may I suggest that details of any fencing as well as the dimensions, location and materials for the access pathway are all necessary as I think that only with all this information as well will it be possible for Sport England to judge the effect of the skatepark and ancillary features on the pitch layouts.

So far as moving the children's play equipment is concerned, perhaps it was not apparent from the first aerial view, but I think you will see from the new version attached, that moving the play equipment will not achieve anything significant because the play equipment is currently positioned immediately adjacent to trees which themselves prevent the pitches from being moved very far.

Because I am not sure you saw my letter and these points are not mentioned in your letter to Mr Brown of Horsham DC, may I just take this opportunity to flag up some other matters which according to the Sport England website are relevant to its decision and which it might be helpful for you in turn to flag up, if you think it appropriate, so that the Parish Council addresses these points as well. More detail is given in my letter.

- Steyning Cricket Club has objected because of the potential effect on its league ambitions.
- ROSPA say that a skatepark *"should not be near trees (leaves on the surface can be hazardous)"*
- It is not clear what though .ht, if any, has been given to the potential danger caused by unfenced deep concrete bowl(s) and a tarmac path immediately adjacent to a football pitch and children's play area.
- The skatepark will also impact adversely on more informal sporting use.
- There are much better alternative sites for the skatepark.
- There are no lavatory or first aid facilities for a development on the MPF
- There do not appear to be any long-term arrangements for the maintenance of the facility.
- There are several alternative skatepark facilities already operating in the area.

Yours sincerely



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