

**Lisa Percival**

Section 40 SE officer

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**From:** [REDACTED] **Section 40 - Friends of MPF**  
**Sent:** 06 February 2013 10:22  
**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

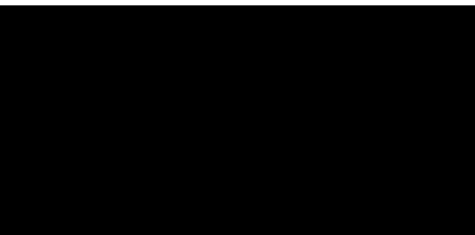
Dear [REDACTED]

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]



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**From:** [REDACTED] **Section 40 - Friends of MPF**  
**Sent:** 05 February 2013 09:52  
**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 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

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**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,  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]@sportengland.org]

**Sent:** 21 January 2013 10:44

**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]

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



[REDACTED]@sportengland.org



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

**Sent:** 19 January 2013 00:11

**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]

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

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

Section 40 - Friends of MPF

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**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.

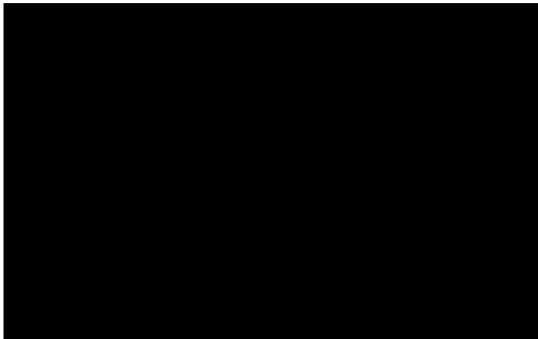
I understand that HDC has written to you again, seeking your views because of this new design. I hope that you will feel able to reiterate Sport England's objection. Even more forcibly given the clearly prejudicial effect it will have for the football teams would obviously be great!

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

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**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?

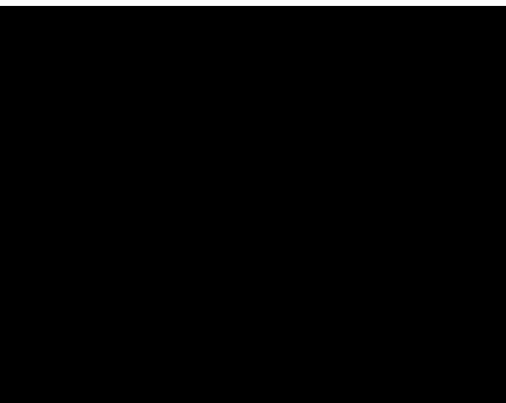
I am not clear whether the National Planning casework unit and/ or the Secretary of State is limited to considering just the sport aspect of the matter or whether they will also have regard to those matters which HDC completely overlooked – its statutory duty to have regard to the National Park purposes, 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,



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**From:** [redacted]@sportengland.org]

**Sent:** 21 December 2012 14:46

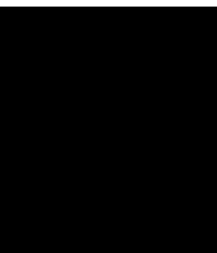
**To:** [redacted] Section 40 - Friends of MPF

**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



[redacted]@sportengland.org



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Repeat

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

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**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 26<sup>th</sup> 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?

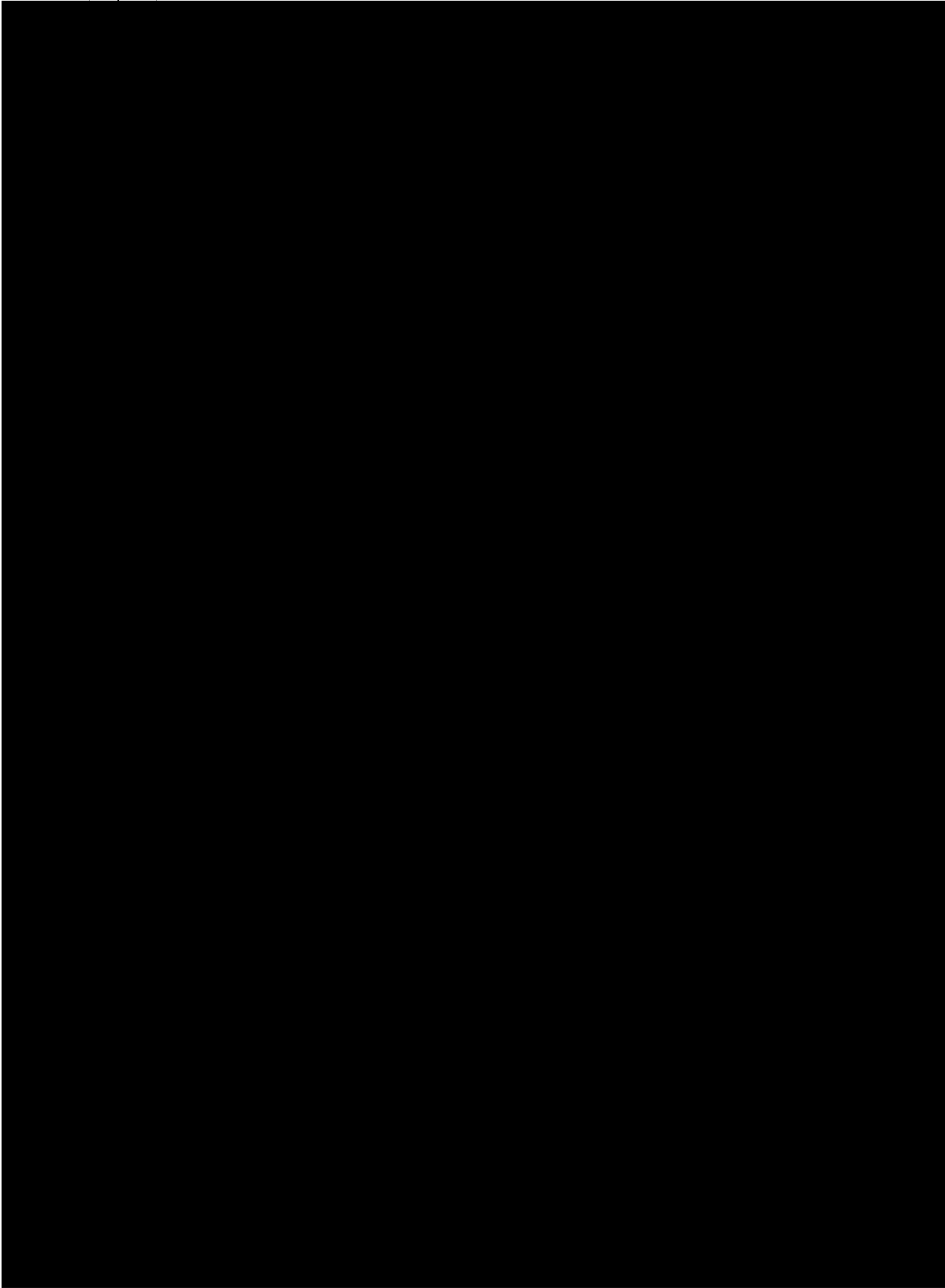
Sincerely

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 November 2012 23:46  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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



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