

FAO: Isabel Johnson
West Berkshire Council
Avonbank House
West Street
NEWBURY
RG14 5LD

BY EMAIL ONLY

23 March 2015

Our Ref: SE/WB/2015/39153/S

Dear Isabel,

App Ref: 15/00366/FUL
Site: Triangle Field, Priory Road, Hungerford, RG17 0AR
Proposal: Proposed instillation of 4x storage units on triangle field, hungerford. Change of use of land from recreational and amenity to storage for theatrical equipment.

I write further to our request for consultation on the above application. I will provide Sport England's response under separate cover and I will provide this response by 1/04/2015.

Sport England was alerted to this application by a member of the public who was concerned that Sport England had not been consulted on the above application.

Sport England met with the Council in 2012 to highlight the Council's failure to consult us on a planning application for a Care home on land at Newbury Rugby Club and we understand that the Council is aware of its responsibility to consult Sport England on relevant applications in accordance with the relevant Statutory Instrument 2010/2014. References to this Statutory Instrument are also on our website:

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

As the Council has failed to consult on the above application I thought it would be helpful to set out why it was appropriate to consult Sport England in this case so that we can ensure that Sport England is consulted on any similar planning applications in the future.

The proposed development is for storage units on an area of the Triangle Field that is not currently laid out for pitches. However it is on an area of grass that is adjacent to the existing playing fields and the site car park.

Sport England, SportPark, 3 Oakwood Drive, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE11 3QF,
T: 020 7273 1777, E: planning.southeast@sportengland.org, www.sportengland.org

The definition of a playing field relates to the whole of a site which contains at least one playing pitch. The playing fields at the Triangle Field are substantial so it easily accommodates a pitch of 0.2 hectares. The playing field is not limited to the area currently marked out as playing pitches. This is picked up on our website in the FAQs:

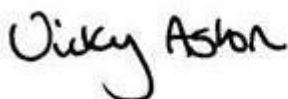
<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/planning-applications/planning-application-faqs/>

I also attach a legal opinion that covers the matter of definition of a site in relation to ancillary sports facilities on a site which you may find of interest.

It is my view that this area of grass adjacent to the car park and playing field is part of the whole of the site. As the site meets the definition of playing field, this is a statutory consultation which means that the Council is required to consult us and we will respond.

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

Yours sincerely



Vicky Aston
Planning Manager

Tel: 020 7273 1912

Email: Vicky.Aston@sportengland.org

Cc: Gary Rayner – West Berkshire Council