

[REDACTED]

From: Laura Hutson [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2018 14:52
To: Planning.Responses
Subject: App Ref: FG/174/17/PL - Little Twitten Recreation Ground - Sport England Ref: SE/AR/2017/47692/S

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Sport England – Statutory Role and Policy

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, as defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). The consultation with Sport England is therefore a statutory requirement.

Sport England has considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (particularly Para 74) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within its Planning Policy Statement titled 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' (see link below):

www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of, all/part of a playing field, unless one or more of the five exceptions stated in its policy apply.

The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

On land adjacent to the recreation ground it is proposed to add an additional four houses to a plot currently containing one existing house. As this plot is adjacent to the recreation ground currently used by a cricket club, there is the possibility that these new houses may prejudice the playing field were they to be struck by cricket balls.

Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF

It is noted that the houses are part of an existing development; however there may be the potential for these additional houses to increase the risk of ball strike and therefore prejudice the playing field.

I therefore consulted the ECB, who stated that the cricket club in question are concerned about ball strike and the potential for damage and injury from the proposed development. The ECB states that the proposal will mean that the new properties will be closer to the playing area than the existing dwelling and as such there may be an increased risk of ball strike. The ECB recommends that a detailed risk assessment be undertaken by Labosport (www.labosport.com) and that the costs of installing any mitigating recommendations resulting from the Labosport report be met by the applicant.

Conclusion

In light of the above, Sport England **objects** to the application because it is not considered to accord with any of the exceptions to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy or with Paragraph 74 of the NPPF. However, should a ballstrike assessment be undertaken and any appropriate mitigation undertaken, Sport England would be happy to reconsider its position.

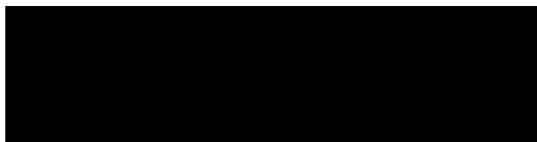
Should the local planning authority be minded to grant planning permission for the proposal, contrary to Sport England's objection then in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009, the application should be referred to the Secretary of State, via the National Planning Casework Unit.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, we would like to be notified in advance of the publication of any committee agendas, report(s) and committee date(s). We would be grateful if you would advise us of the outcome of the application by sending us a copy of the decision notice.

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

Yours sincerely,

Laura Hutson MRTPI
Planning Manager



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1st Floor, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London, WC1B 3HF



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