

From: 
To: [Hebe Smith](#)
Subject: Re: Application LU/157/26/PL - Wick Football Club
Sent: 10/09/2026 15:04:41

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HI Hebe

Sorry for the delay in response, I have been away for a few days.

Re the land registry, I would have thought that they could have some detail to put on a plan so that we can be specific in our reply. As you say not a planning matter

I wonder if the detailed drainage plans that we submitted has come through at your end. We have done detailed work. Attached again for your information. I know things get dropped from the portal every now and then. I think this answers most of the drainage points.

It has been an issue for me for many years and I have taken it up with Sport England, the body supposed to be supporting sport not objecting to it. I have never had a response. If you read their policy an artificial pitch is not contrary to policy. It is clear in my statement. They choose to take the view that keeping natural grass is the policy. They do this to give them an opportunity to seek to impose their details. Slatters the contractors are the leading contractor in the country and are members of the sports framework supported by the FA and SE in terms of pitch building. I am one of the better known consultants in this business with over 200 pitches behind me. I have never had an issue with building a pitch. SE should know this but they like to box tick. These minor matters are automatically done and it is a level of detail that is not relevant to planning. For instance the retention detail for the infill is not going to be a reason for refusal. and in normal terms I would guess you would ignore these matters but for the direction powers that they have which pressures Councils to fall into line otherwise if the Council want to approve the application it needs to be referred to the SoS. I have been involved in a number of cases and not had a call in. In fact there have only been 3/4 calls in ever over thousands of cases.

I attach a 3G pitch section. the difference is only the carpet

Our response to their technical points are as follows.

FF & FA:

There is no padel courts planned as part of this project

Technical Detail:

- A 3G surface will be install for football only to meet FIFA Quality Standard.
- There is no padel courts to be included in this project, the full carpark to retained for the football clubs new 3g pitch
- Infill retention measures - boots scrapper and contamination mats are to be install at the main entrances/exit to the new pitch. Infill containment kickboards are to be install to the spectator barrier. Single height at 250mm as per guidance when backing onto a hard landscaped area.
- Dugout are/will be positioned with full view of the pitch - yellow hatched no standing areas are to be included to protect sightline
- 11v11 goals will be socketed
- All walkways are a minum of 0.9m
- There are no brick/block/concrete retaining walls within the pitch run-off.
- Current design does not limit progression to step 4. The ground currently has 2000 capacity, 100 of which are seated, and planned to install two additional stands on the East and West have been taken into consideration.
- There is additional space around the pitch to increase the walkway to 2.4m in high foot traffic area. Currently will be a minimum of 1.8m in high foot traffic areas, and 0.9m in low foot traffic areas.
- The club has more than the required 40 car parking spaces required, plus additional off site park for est 20 cars.
- The pitch will be test upon completion to FIFA Quality Standard

We have addressed all their points and would sent direct to them for withdrawal of objection.

Regards

Neil

On 4 Sep 2026, at 10:10, Hebe Smith <Hebe.Smith@arun.gov.uk> wrote:

Good morning,

Further to my previous email. I have now heard from the Council's Property and Estates team. Their comments are attached. Whilst this is not a matter which would directly impact the outcome of a planning application, it may be something that the club wishes to resolve before a further application is submitted.

Kind regards,

Hebe Smith (she/her)

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