

25 May 2022

Sport England Email to Kingston Council

Following to my last email, I understand that there is currently no community use of this site, and no plans to mitigate its loss such as investment in nearby playing fields. There is also no evidence that this site is surplus to requirements, as I understand Kingston's Playing Pitch Strategy is still in the process of being commissioned.

However, I understand there is the potential to open up the proposed new facilities on site for community use where there was none before, which is of some value to the community and does provide some mitigation.

To be clear, this application does not meet any of Sport England's policy exceptions (which can be viewed on this link) nor does it meet the NPPF requirements (para 99).

However, I understand that this is a special set of circumstances involving the provision of a SEND school. While it remains the case that the loss here is extremely disappointing, and that this is a departure from both Sport England policy and the NPPF, given that there is an opportunity to create community use here, on this particular occasion, Sport England will not object to this application subject to the following condition being imposed on any planning permission should it be granted:

Use of the development shall not commence [or no development shall commence or such other timescale] until a community use agreement prepared in consultation with Sport England has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and a copy of the completed approved agreement has been provided to the Local Planning Authority. The agreement shall apply to all sports facilities on site including the MUGA and sports hall (plus the toilets and car parks for the users of those facilities) and include details of pricing policy, hours of use, access by non-[educational establishment] users [/non-members], management responsibilities and a mechanism for review. The development shall not be used otherwise than in strict compliance with the approved agreement."

Reason: To secure well managed safe community access to the sports facility/facilities, to ensure sufficient benefit to the development of sport and to accord with Development Plan Policy **.

Informative: Guidance on preparing Community Use Agreements is available from Sport England. <http://www.sportengland.org/planningapplications/>

I am happy to discuss the wording of the above condition and also very happy to advise the applicants further should they wish including providing a template for a community use agreement. Should you choose not to impose the above condition on any planning permission you should consider that Sport England would object.

Kind regards,

Planning Manager