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LAND OF SCALEGILL ROAD, MOOR ROW, WHITEHAVEN

4/21/2360/001

This is an application to remove Condition 15 requiring a Ball Stop Fence to be erected on the Eastern boundary of the development site behind plots 10 -13 at Wildridge Drive, Moor Row. The condition for a 6m fence was applied to the consent following representation from Sports England during the planning process.

Whilst a Condition discharge application has been approved for Condition 15 and the design completed by SIS, following further investigation and discussions with the adjacent school it has now been determined that the requirement / need is not applicable and the application is therefore to remove this.

The following matters are considered pertinent in this application : -

1. The requirement of a ball stop fence is not consistent, the LPA / Sports England did not request a fence to be erected adjacent to the Rugby pitches at Lorton Road, Cockermouth. The attached photograph demonstrates the adjacencies between pitch and house.



Lorton Road, Cockermouth with no requirement for a Ball Stop Fence the scheme was approved on Appeal by the Planning Inspectorate

2. Since the applicant has owned the site no football matches have occurred on the football pitch adjacent
3. Cumbria Football Association have no records of matches being played on the pitch
4. The pitch is not secure / gated to the old railway line and has been used by bikes / quads and therefore not suited to football matches

5. The LPA would not consider the erection of the ball stop fence within the boundaries of the pitch and therefore outside of the application site, the location being more suited to access for maintenance / repair
6. The school have advised that the age of children using the pitch are unlikely to be able to kick a ball up to the boundary and certainly not clear a 6m fence
7. The pitch is at right angles to the housing therefore less likely to have ball kicking directly towards the site.
8. The physical location of the fence within the rear gardens is not ideal as we still need to instal a timber fence at 1.8m high for security therefore the ball stop fence needs to be installed in board of the fence.
9. The school are working with their pupils and locals on a re-wilding project alongside this boundary and this when established / matured will offer a natural and better boundary to the pitch. Below is an image of the current boundary in summer 2025.



Eastern boundary of the site

In conclusion, the applicant has agreed to work with the school and assist in off site planting and improving the natural boundary to the site. This allows the applicant to work alongside the school following an initial positive meeting to enhance the outlook of the sports pitch and further support their efforts in providing an ecological / re-wilded boundary to the site.

The proposed Ball Fence was excessive for the use / expectations of the pitch and do not show a consistent approach to Sports Pitches by the LPA. The applicant is committed to the working with the school and feel the benefits of a planting scheme will outweigh the requirement for the ball stop fence.