

Oliver Hoban

From: Dave McGuire
Sent: 14 December 2023 16:38
To: Development Control
Subject: 4/23/2344/0F1 THE EXTENSION, RECONFIGURATION, AND MODERNISATION OF AN EXISTING CLUBHOUSE TO PROVIDE RFU COMPLIANT CHANGING FACILITIES AND A NEW GYM MILLOM RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB, MILLOM RUFC WILSON PARK ST LUKES ... LA18 4HB

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Dear Christie Burns

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above named application.

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 (in particular Para. 99), and against its own playing fields policy, which states:

'Sport England will oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or would prejudice the use of:

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or
- land allocated for use as a playing field

unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.'

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document can be viewed via the below link:

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

Having assessed the application, Sport England is satisfied that the proposed development meets exception 2 of our playing fields policy, in that:

'The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field, and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.'

This being the case, Sport England **does not wish to raise an objection** to this application.

Sport England has engaged with the RFU as part of its consideration of the consultation and it has responded to advise;

The submitted design for the proposed new changing rooms does not comply with RFU Changing Room Guidance. Information is required showing the number of showers in each changing room; and the 14 person changing rooms do not meet the minimum size requirement for RFU Design Guidance (15 persons minimum). The consideration of

providing en-suite facilities in all changing rooms is an upgrade on existing provision and the externally accessible toilet facilities are a thoughtful addition to the design.

The RFU's advice does not affect Sport England's substantive response but may affect the applicant if they are seeking funding from the RFU for the proposed work and should therefore be brought to the applicant's attention.

The absence of an objection to this application, in the context of the Town and Country Planning Act, cannot be taken as formal support or consent from Sport England or any National Governing Body of Sport to any related funding application, or as may be required by virtue of any pre-existing funding agreement.

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

Yours sincerely,

Dave McGuire
Planning Manager



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