

From: Dave McGuire
Sent: 11 November 2024 11:21
To: Development Control; Bamford, Kerry
Subject: 4/24/2339/0F1 PROPOSED SITING OF A FREIGHT CONTAINER FOR STORAGE, OVEREND SPORTS STADIUM, OVEREND ROAD, WHITEHAVEN

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Dear Kerry Bamford

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. 103) and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within its 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document': https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

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.

Assessment against Sport England Policy/NPPF

Playing field policy is a restrictive policy based on a presumption against any development which results in the loss of playing field (in whole or part) or prejudices its use. As such, for development not to encounter an objection from Sport England it must be shown to be of a form covered by one of the exceptions (to the presumption against) set out above.

Playing field policy exception 2 allows development which 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.

It is clear from the development description that the proposed development will be ancillary to the use of the athletics track. Unfortunately the scale of the proposed site plan is not detailed or accurate enough for Sport England to be certain that the container's location will not impact upon the track or jump pit. Whilst we are certain that this is not the applicant's intention, scaling from the site plan suggests the container will be located across part of the sprint straight.

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 103 of the NPPF.

Sport England considers that a suitably scaled and accurate block plan (or annotated aerial photo) would quickly resolve the objection.

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 2021, the application should be referred to the Secretary of State, via the 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,

Dave McGuire
Planning Manager