

Clairé Spokes

From: Barry King [barryking@bcal.co.uk]
Sent: 07 January 2009 10:42
To: Claire Spokes
Cc: Jenny Pollard
Subject: RE: Guilsborough School - Planning Application
Attachments: Grounds Maintenance plan08.pdf

Claire,

Thanks for your e-mail regarding your Sport England consultation.

We have discussed this with the school and would respond as follows;

We would reiterate that the aim of the project is to reduce Health and Safety risks to students associated with the current interfaces between vehicles and students at the front of the school at opening and closing time.

The area of land proposed for the parking & turning area is currently an area of amenity grass. The area is not marked out as a pitch as it is often waterlogged and would be unusable. The area is available to students at lunch and break times only in summer months when the area is suitably dry. Additionally the area is isolated on the opposite side of the school buildings from the sports fields.

We attach a copy of a plan provided by the school indicating pitch provision at the school. The area of school grounds dedicated to pitches as indicated on the plan is approx 58,850 sq m (5.9Ha), this excludes the area of the application site.

The school have indicated that when the area is not in use for vehicles it would continue to be available to the students for informal recreational use ie as a hard play area during breaktimes and lunch, additionally as it will now be hard surfaced and hence cannot become waterlogged its availability to the students will be increased. The response from Jenny Pollard, Business Manager for the school is contained in the e-mail below.

We trust this is sufficient to address your query, however if you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards

Barry King

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From: Mrs Pollard [mailto:POLLARD@Guilsborough.northants.sch.uk]
Sent: 07 January 2009 09:08
To: Barry King

Cc: Mr Quinn; Mrs Staley; Mr Reese
Subject: RE: Guilsborough School - Planning Application

Good Morning Barry

I presume most of the information they are requesting is already included in the planning application, however, I have tried below to provide the additional information you require.

Attached is a plan showing the full extent of the school's sports areas. As you can see the area designated for the new coach park (bottom right hand corner) is not marked out for any sports activities due to the poor quality of the ground – often water logged.

Currently this area is only used for students to play on in dry weather during the summer – therefore only for a very short time of the year. One of the side benefits of the new coach park is that the hard area will be available for students to play on at breaks and lunchtimes all the year round, thus increasing significantly the amount of hard area for recreational use.

The County Council are fully aware of the plans and are supporting the project financially in order to reduce the health and safety risks and provide this additional recreational area for students throughout the year.

Please contact me if you require any further information.

Thanks

Jenny

From: Claire Spokes [mailto:CSpokes@northamptonshire.gov.uk]
Sent: 05 January 2009 15:32
To: barryking@bcal.co.uk
Subject: Guilsborough School - Planning Application

Barry,

Thank you for your application which was received on 29th December.

I need a bit of clarification about the land in question.

- What is the current use of the land?
- Has it ever been used for sporting activities – whether as a demarcated pitch or otherwise?
- With the exclusion of the proposed site, what is the total area of sports field available for school use?

I am required to consult Sport England on the application and it is important that as much information as possible is available to them to avoid receiving an objection. I have attached a document which outlines the kind of information required by SE. I would appreciate you having a read of paragraphs 2.2 and 2.3 (in particular bullet point 4 of 2.2) and providing a short supporting statement giving the required details for SE to consider the application.

The following is taken from a previous SE response – In this case I think only E1 is relevant therefore you should look more closely at this:

The development will have an impact on playing fields. A playing field is defined in the 1996 Statutory Instrument No.1817 as the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch. In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and its playing field policy, Sport England will object to the loss of any area within playing fields to development unless one of five exceptions is met. The exceptions relate to the following:-

- E1 - A proven excess of provision.
- E2 - The use is ancillary to the playing field.
- E3 - The site is incapable of forming part of a pitch.
- E4 - Equivalent or better replacement will be provided elsewhere.
- E5 - An alternative sports use is proposed, outweighing loss

Sport England has considered this application in the light of its playing fields policy. The aim of this policy is to ensure that there is an adequate supply of quality pitches to satisfy the current and estimated future demand for pitch sports within the area. The policy seeks to protect all parts of the playing field from development and not just those which, for the time being, are laid out as pitches. The policy states that;

“ 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 last used as a playing field or allocated for use as a playing field in an adopted or draft deposit local plan, unless, in the judgement of Sport England, one of the Specific circumstances applies.”

Reason; Development which would lead to the loss of all or part of a playing field, or which would prejudice its use, should not normally be permitted because it would permanently reduce the opportunities for participation in sporting activities. Government planning policy and the policies of Sport England have recognised the importance of such activities to the social and economic well-being of the country.

Should you have any queries, please contact me on the details below.

Regards
Claire Spokes
Planning Technician

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KEY

- G Gang Mowing
- T Triple Mowing
- P Pedestrian Mowing
- S Shrub Beds
- A All Weather Surface
- R Redgra Area
- U Unattended Areas
- Perimeter Maintenance
- Security Fence

Site Supervisor:
 School: 01604 740641

Guilsborough School

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