

Morris, Rachael

From: Wood, Richard
Sent: 14 December 2022 16:29
To: Morris, Rachael
Subject: Planning App Consultation Request Internal F/22/94174

Hello Rachael,

Thank you for requesting consultation on the above planning application for the conversion of the existing playing field to accommodate 2.no football pitches and 2.no cricket pitches with the loss of 1.no football pitch. Erection of a single-storey cricket score-box and storage cabin. Associated landscaping and footpath upgrade.

Lapstone Playing Fields is a multi-sport site with provision for football, cricket and tennis as well as informal recreation. Recent improvements have been made to the tennis courts to help increase participation and access to the public open space provides a number of health benefits. The sports provided on site are complimentary and maximise the use of the playing pitches and ancillary facilities. It is noted that the parking and tennis provision will not be impacted by these proposals and therefore won't have a detrimental impact on participation numbers. This project will enable growth and development of cricket locally where there is currently displaced demand outside of the local authority area due to the lack of pitch provision. The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) 2017 identifies a need for a second cricket pitch at Lapstone Playing Fields. The current provision enables a capacity of 50 match equivalent sessions (MES). This was being exceeded in 2017 by Fair Oak Cricket Club and since then the club has grown significantly with an additional two senior teams, a women's team and numerous junior teams. It is expected that the need for an additional cricket pitch at Lapstone will be re-affirmed by the new PPS which is currently in development and expected to be adopted in 2023.

Given the strategic need and local evidence base I would fully support the need to a second cricket pitch and associated ancillary facilities at Lapstone Playing Fields.

In terms of football use, it is clear that there is a high demand for youth football locally and Wyvern FC has grown in size since the PPS was last completed in 2017. To support the growth of youth football locally a number of new grass and artificial pitches have been developed to increase capacity and support the demand. Enhanced 3G facilities at Wyvern School have supported training and match play demand from Wyvern FC who are now the main football user at Lapstone Playing Fields. It is my view that the proposed mitigation of enhanced grass pitch provision at Wyvern College adheres to Paragraph 97 of the NPPF to ensure that equivalent provision is being offered in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location. I am aware that Wyvern FC have been consulted through the development stage of this project and I am confident that the Council will continue to support the growth of the club to enable participation in football and improve health & wellbeing for local residents.

Kind regards,

Richard

Richard Wood

Leisure Services Manager

Service Delivery - Specialist Services - Health and Wellbeing

Ext.: 8308

Mobile: 07795 496480