

DELEGATED OFFICER REPORT

Application Ref: F/23/95881

Site Address: FLEMING PARK DISTRICT PARK, PASSFIELD AVENUE, EASTLEIGH

Case Officer: Rachael Morris

Description: Erection of ball stop netting (6m high X 50m long).

Particular Site Constraints?	Yes ☒	No ☐
• Within the urban edge • Existing Recreation and Open Space Facility		

Planning History?	Yes ☐	No ☒

Publicity:	Letters ☒	Site Notice ☒	Newspaper ☐
Representations:	None		
Parish Council:	No Comment		
Asset Management:	No response		
Ecology:	Our only concern is the potential for the entanglement of birds and bats in the netting. Other fauna, such as hedgehogs, could also potentially become entangled at ground level. Therefore, we would require the netting to be lowered (ideally removed when practicable to do so) when not in use and checked frequently for any entangled wildlife which must be immediately released if found. Any incidents of wildlife entanglement should be reported to the Ecology Team at EBC for monitoring purposes.		
Sport England:	Sport England raises no objection to this application as it is considered to meet exception 2 of our Playing Fields Policy and to accord with Paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).		
Eastleigh Ramblers:	No rights of way are affected by the proposed ball stop netting so we have no comments to make.		
Hampshire Garden Trust:	No response		
The Garden Trust:	No response		

Site Visit:	Yes ☒	No ☐
Details: 27/10/2023		

Policy:
National Planning Policy Framework Planning Practice Guidance
Development Plan: The <u>Eastleigh Borough Local Plan 2016-2036</u> The most relevant policies are Strategic policies S1 and S2; and Development Management policies DM1, DM2, DM11, DM14, and DM32.
Supplementary Planning Documents: Quality Places; Residential Parking Standards; Character Area Appraisals.

Assessment:

The development is considered acceptable and complies with policies DM1, DM2, DM11, DM14, and DM32 from the 2016-2036 local plan, in that:

Principle

- The development is within the urban edge where the principle of development is acceptable.
- The proposal is within an existing recreational ground/open space. Policy DM32 states that development ancillary to the recreational use may be permitted on recreation sites provided that it does not adversely affect land forming part of, or capable of forming part of, a playing pitch/ court/green.

Design and layout

- The proposed ball stop netting is an ancillary feature to the existing sporting provision and does not detract from its available use.
- The design and layout respect the character and appearance of the locality where there is other ball stop netting seen within the vicinity. At Places Leisure Eastleigh, on the same site, there is permanent netting on both the 3G pitch and tennis court fencing, which extends in height to approx. 5m.
- The proposed design of the netting is 6m high and 50m long, and covers the expanse of hedgerow that is adjacent to the Fleming Park Bowling Club to try and reduce the number of balls from being kicked into the club green. The design is reasonable and suits the area.
- The proposal accords with policy DM32 in that it does not detrimentally prejudice the existing sporting or open space uses of the site.

Sports

- Hampshire Football Association (FA) have been working with Eastleigh Borough Council and Fleming Athletic Youth to bring the grass pitches back into use. The pitches have been reorientated to accommodate 9v9 pitch provision.
- The proposed solution of ball stop netting is sensible to alleviate the risk of stray balls entering the bowls club directly behind the goal location.
- The technical specification of ball stop netting is sufficient and meets FA requirements. The information provided is adequate to ensure that the netting would mitigate the risk of footballs leaving the pitch area. The Football Foundation (FF) and Hampshire FA are supportive of this proposal.

Ecology

- The proposal site is managed by Eastleigh Borough Council Direct Services ground team and are therefore responsible for reporting and bird/bat entanglement. A management document has been submitted including the proposed maintenance which details a table of frequency and responsibility. This document will be conditioned.
- Moreover, a condition will be placed to require the ball stop netting to be removed outside of the football season.

Other material considerations

- There will be no adverse impact upon trees or other natural features worthy of retention.
- There are no likely significant impacts on the SPA.

Climate Change:

In July 2019, the Council declared a Climate Change and Environmental Emergency. In doing so it agreed, among other things, to: (a) put in place measures to ensure the Council's own operations and functions achieve carbon neutrality by 2025; (b) work with

partners to aim for all projects and services delivered in the Borough to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030; (c) ensure that the Council's procurement policy recognises carbon neutrality as one of its primary considerations; and (d) recognise the urgency of action to mitigate and adapt to climate change in every decision taken by the Council. This is underpinned by the Climate and Environment Emergency Strategy 2020–2030 and the supporting Climate and Environmental Emergency Action Plan – Update June 2020.

The declaration of the Climate Change and Environmental Emergency demonstrates a strong commitment from the Council to achieve net zero. The NPPF, development plan and adopted local plan policy do not set this as a specific target, but it is a material consideration to be considered alongside all other material considerations. In any case addressing climate change is a core part of the NPPF and local plan policy. The need to support the economy is part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment for the adopted local plan, as is an assessment of climate impacts.

Equalities Implications:

Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 created the public sector equality duty. Section 149 states:

- A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

When making policy decisions, the Council must take account of the equality duty and in particular any potential impact on protected groups. It is considered that this application does not raise any equality implications

Conclusion:

Recommendation:

PERMIT ☒

REFUSE ☐

Comments ...