

Eastleigh Borough Council

FAO: Rachel Morris

Byemail only

23 February 2024

**Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England)
Order 2015**

Application Reference: F/24/96865

Site: Wide Lane Sports Ground

Proposal: Erection of floodlighting and associated development

Sport England Reference: PA/24/SE/ET/66994

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Sport England's Position

There is currently insufficient information to enable Sport England to assess the application against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular paragraph 103, and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. We therefore submit a **holding objection** pending receipt of the information set out below.

Sport England – statutory consultee role and policy

We understand that you have consulted us as a statutory consultee on this application inline with the above Order.

To enable us to assess the application and to make a substantive response, we require the following information:

1. A lighting plan showing how the recommended lighting levels (lux levels) are achieved for the sports that will be played on the proposed 3G AGPs ie football and rugby. Sport England has produced guidance on this matter and we would therefore refer the agent to:
<https://www.sportengland.org/guidance-and-support/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/artificial-lighting>. Until we have this information we cannot fully assess whether the proposed sports lighting is suitable.

We will review our position following the receipt of the further information requested above and will then, in accordance with the Order, respond within 21 days.

Yours sincerely,

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Sport England's 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document' is available to view at: www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy

The Five Exceptions to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy are:

Exception 1

A robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

Exception 2

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.

Exception 3

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;
- result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- or
- prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.

Exception 4

The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:

- of equivalent or better quality, and
- of equivalent or greater quantity, and
- in a suitable location, and
- subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.

Exception 5

The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

