

Eastleigh Borough Council

FAO: Rachael Morris

By email only

19th November 2024

Application Reference: DC/24/98410

Site: WIDE LANE SPORTS GROUND, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SPORTS GROUND, SO50 5PE

Proposal: Discharge of Condition 4 (Community Use Agreement) of planning permission F/23/95045 for the Installation of 2no. synthetic sports pitches, erection of fencing including new pedestrian access route, associated engineering operations and landscaping

Sport England Reference: PA/24/SE/ET/69056

Thank you for consulting Sport England in respect of the details submitted under the above planning reference to discharge condition no.4 of planning permission F/23/95045.

Sport England has consulted the FA/Football Foundation and the RFU on the application. We have received comments from the FA/Football Foundation (FF) but not the RFU.

The FA/FF comments that 'University core times' (bottom of page 3) seems to contradict the community use hours (schedule 2) as there are community use hours identified within university core times. Section 4 does state that community use "may also be offered during University Core Times", but it leaves the community position a little unclear. It is understood that the community are able to access the facilities within core university times if there is no demand from the university which is welcomed, but can this be set out in a clearer way?

The FF further adds that paragraph 8.1. is welcomed. Inclusion of an affordable pricing policy is good to see. Paragraph 9.1 states the member should be a member of the Football Association but should presumably read Hampshire Football Association. The agreement should be signed prior to being approved from a planning condition perspective.

Sport England would add that the oversight committee should also include a

representative from one of the community user groups/clubs to ensure those that are regularly using the facilities have a voice on the governance arrangements. Please can the agreement be signed by the University and the borough council.

If you have any queries, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal (MRTPI)

Planning Manager

T: 020 7273 1913

M: 07788396293

F: 01628 472 410

E: Owen.Neal@sportengland.org