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Sent: 16 June 2023 10:55:45 UTC+01:00
To: "Planning Admin" <planning.admin@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: App Ref: 20230465 - HELEN ALLISON SCHOOL, LONGFIELD ROAD, MEOPHAM
DA13 0EW - Sport England Ref: PA/23/SE/GR/64786

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Dear Kelly,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application for the construction of a school Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) within an existing playing area.

Sport England - Statutory Role and Policy

It is understood that the proposal prejudices the use, or leads to the loss of use, of land being used as a playing field or has been used as a playing field in the last five years, as defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). The consultation with Sport England is therefore a statutory requirement.

Sport England has considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (in particular Para. 99), and against its own playing fields policy, which states:

'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 which has been used as a playing field and remains undeveloped, or
- land allocated for use as a playing field

unless, in the judgement of Sport England, the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions.'

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document can be viewed via the below link:

https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport#playing_fields_policy

The Proposal and Impact on Playing Field

The proposed artificial grass MUGA will be located off the principal playing field area and will not affect the quantity and quality of playing pitches at the site. Sport England notes that the proposed MUGA will not be sized in accordance with Sport England design guidance and the

recommended guidelines for a multi-sport MUGA. However, we note that the proposal will not be available for community use given the nature of the school.

Assessment against Sport England Policy

This application relates to the provision of a new outdoor sports facility on the existing playing field at the above site. It therefore needs to be considered against exception 5 of the above policy, which states:

'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.'

Sport England is content that the proposed development will have sporting benefits for the school as it will provide a multi-sport facility to support the school's PE curriculum. There is not considered to be a harmful impact on the playing field/pitches at the site. On that basis, Sport England does not wish to raise an objection to this application as it is considered to meet exception 5 of the above policy.

Sport England would also like to be notified of the outcome of the application through the receipt of a copy of the decision notice.

The absence of an objection to this application, in the context of the Town and Country Planning Act, cannot be taken as formal support or consent from Sport England or any National Governing Body of Sport to any related funding application, or as may be required by virtue of any pre-existing funding agreement.

If you would like any further information or advice, please contact me at the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal
Planning Manager

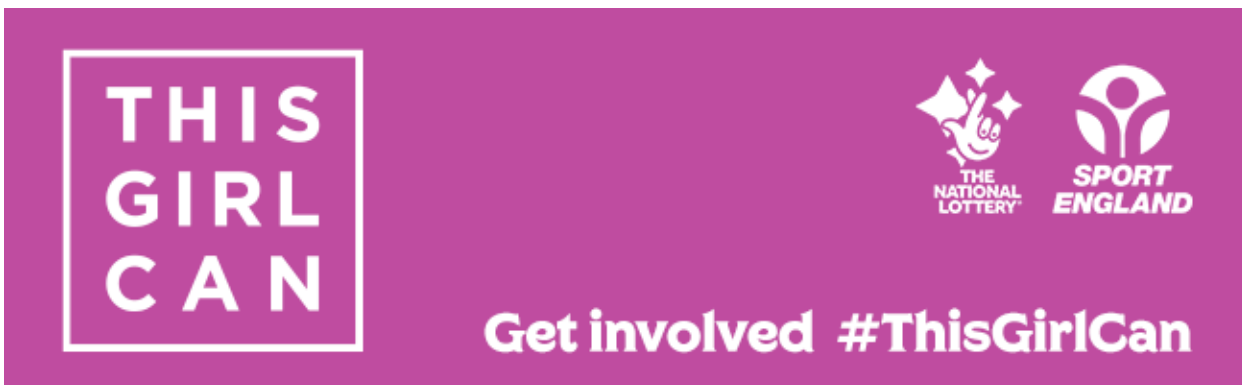
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