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Sent: 25 May 2012 17:27
To: Planning
Subject: Planning Application No: N6/2012/0854/MA - Hertfordshire Constabulary, Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City

For the attention of Mrs. S. Smith

Dear Mrs. Smith

Planning Application No: N6/2012/0854/MA - Hertfordshire Constabulary, Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above planning application which was received on 24thth May 2012. I can confirm that the consultation is statutory as it affects a playing field. Unfortunately, I am not currently in a position to make a substantive response to the consultation because insufficient information has been provided to allow me to make an informed assessment of whether the proposal would accord with Sport England's playing fields policy, A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England (1997)

http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/putting_policy_into_practice/playing_fields.aspx. In order to allow me to undertake a fully informed assessment, I would request the following information to be provided:

1. Existing Playing Pitch Layouts: Site plans (to scale) showing the existing playing pitch layout (both winter and summer if applicable) of the playing field. This information is required to make an informed assessment of the impact of the proposals on existing playing pitch provision. The plans submitted do not show any existing football, rugby, cricket etc pitches.
2. Proposed Playing Pitch Layouts: Site plans (to scale) showing the proposed playing pitch layout (both winter and summer if applicable) of the playing field after the development has been implemented. This information is required to make an informed assessment of the impact of the proposals on playing pitch provision. The plans submitted do not show any proposed football, rugby, cricket etc pitches to allow comparison to be made to the existing pitch layouts.
3. Use of the Playing Field: Details of the existing use of the playing field i.e. is it just used by Hertfordshire Constabulary and if so what sports is it used for, how often are the pitches used etc?. If there is wider community use of the playing field, similar details should be provided. This information is required to assess the extent of impact of the proposals on existing users of the playing field;
4. Physical Constraints: Details of any physical constraints in the area of the playing field proposed for development i.e. in the southern area of the playing field where the proposed grass bank is to be sited e.g. significant gradients, drainage etc. This information is required to assess whether the area proposed for development is constrained from being used for playing pitches.

All of the above information is requested to allow Sport England to make an informed assessment of whether the proposed development would accord with any of the exceptions in the our playing fields policy. I would be happy to discuss the requested information further with the applicant and/or the Council if necessary.

I would be grateful if you could ask the applicant to provide the above information at your earliest convenience. Until then Sport England would object to the planning application.

As I am currently unable to make a substantive response, in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order 2005 (and the related guidance in Circular 08/05), the 21 days for responding to the consultation will not commence until I have received the information requested above.




Please contact me if you have any queries.
Regards

Roy Warren
Planning Manager

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