

## 1 Supporting Statement

### 1.1 The need for the pitch

The netball courts will be used primarily by the school. This will be an upgrade and extension to the existing courts which are in poor condition. The new facility is in line with Sport England and England Netball's requirements for sport development.

The proposal will provide a safe, clean and fit for purpose facility in the community that is easily accessible.

Under the National Planning Policy Frameworks (paragraph 73) we can confirm that the additional land required to extend the existing facility is currently not fully utilised by the school. It is currently classified as playing fields but its shape, distance and drainage qualities do not lend themselves to practical use throughout the year. The proposed development does not impinge on a marked out pitch, but just surrounding ground.

It is therefore postulated that the development would enhance this area for the continuing use of sport. It will also allow for the potential development of other sports, e.g. tennis and basketball. The extended facility will also facilitate the participation of sports in more inclement weather than was previously possible.

### 1.2 Proposed use

The facility would be used for and classed as a netball courts. The primary sport would be netball. The courts will be specified to meet governing bodies recommendations.

The courts will be 'let' outwith school hours. This will be controlled through the school. An employee will be on-site when the courts are being used and will have control of the lighting which will be housed within the school buildings and at court side. The lighting can also be on a timer so they will automatically switch off at 22:00 hours.

### 1.3 Proposed hours

It is proposed that the facility would be used by the school throughout school hours. In addition it would be used by the community. The extended hours would be:

Monday to Friday	8:30 – 22:00
Saturday and Sunday	8:30 - 20:00

#### 1.4 Parking, toilet, changing facilities

The school building will provide the necessary supporting amenities. This includes car/cycle parking, toilet and changing facilities. It should also be noted that the courts are accessible for disabled users via DDA compliant access paths.

## 2 Construction programme

For a facility of this size the anticipated construction period would be 5 weeks. The first week would involve groundworks. Since the site is part of a school extra care will be taken in regard to vehicle movements. This will be addressed in the contractor's health and safety plan. The next 2 weeks would see the completion of the base structure, kerbs and foundations. The remaining time will involve the installation of the fence, lighting columns, the surface, fixture and fittings.