

**From:** [Roy Warren](#)  
**To:** [Planning](#)  
**Subject:** App Ref: 6/2019/0085/FULL - Chancellors School, Pine Grove, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, AL9 7BN  
**Date:** 24 January 2019 17:34:57

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For the attention of David Elmore

Dear Mr. Elmore

**App Ref: 6/2019/0085/FULL - Chancellors School, Pine Grove, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, AL9 7BN (Sport England Ref: PA/18/E/WH/51286)**

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above planning application. The site is considered to constitute playing field, or land last used as playing field, as defined in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 (Statutory Instrument 2015 No. 595). As such Sport England is a statutory consultee.

Sport England has sought to consider the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (particularly Para. 97) and against its own playing fields policy. Unfortunately there is insufficient information to enable Sport England to adequately assess the proposal or to make a substantive response. Please therefore could the following information be provided as soon as possible:

1. **Playing Pitch Layouts:** Site plans (to scale) showing the existing and proposed summer (natural turf) playing pitch layouts. The layouts shown on the site plans only show the winter playing pitch layout. There are no plans showing where any running tracks, cricket pitches, rounders pitches, jump pits etc are marked out in the summer. This information is required to allow an informed assessment to be made of the impact of the proposals on natural turf playing pitch provision.
2. **Cricket Nets:** The proposed replacement games courts would appear to displace four cricket nets in the north western area of the playing field. Details are requested of whether the cricket nets are still in operational use, what condition they are in and what (if any) mitigation is proposed to address their loss. This information is required to allow an informed assessment to be made of the impact of the proposals on playing pitch provision;
3. **Games Courts Phasing:** Details of the phasing of the development in relation to the games courts. Would the replacement games courts be constructed and ready for use before construction starts on the site of the existing games court? If not, details are requested of how the temporary impact on the delivery of the school's PE curriculum will be addressed if the school do not have access to games courts for a temporary period. Details of the expected duration of any such interim period and whether there is any community use of the courts (outside of school hours) is also requested. This information is required to allow an informed assessment to be made of

the impact of the proposals on games court provision.

4. Games Court Design and Layout: Details (if available at this stage) of the design and layout of the replacement games court area including surfacing, line marking and fencing. This information is requested to allow an informed assessment to be made of the replacement games court area in terms of whether it would represent a suitable facility for mitigating the loss of the existing games courts and to assess the sport related benefits.
5. Sports Hall: Confirmation of whether the proposed sports hall and replacement games courts would be made available for community use outside of school hours as it is unclear from the information provided. If so, would the school be willing to formalise community use arrangements through completing a community use agreement. This information is requested to allow an informed assessment to be made of the potential community sports related benefits of the proposed facility in the local context.

Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance document, which includes the type of information required in order for us to evaluate a planning application against our policy, can be viewed via the link:

[www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy](http://www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy) (see Annex B)

Sport England's interim position on this proposal is to submit a **holding objection**. However we will happily review our position following the receipt of all the further information requested above. As I am currently unable to make a substantive response, in accordance with the Order referred to above, the 21 days for formally responding to the consultation will not commence until I have received all the information requested above.

Should the local planning authority be minded to grant planning permission for the proposal, contrary to Sport England's holding objection, then in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009, the application should be referred to the Secretary of State, via the National Planning Casework Unit.

I would be happy to discuss the requested information further with the applicant and/or the local planning authority if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

**Roy Warren**

Planning Manager

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