



**cuffley**footballclub

a member of The FA Charter Standard Clubs

King George 5th Playing Fields, Northaw Road East  
Cuffley, Hertfordshire EN6 4RD

[www.cuffleyfc.co.uk](http://www.cuffleyfc.co.uk)



Mr Kevin Borley  
17 Tolmers Gardens  
Cuffley  
Hertfordshire  
EN6 4JE

16<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Dear Sir

Ref: S6/2015/1342/PP

On behalf of Cuffley Football Club we wish to draw your attention to the following points in support of the above planning application.

As one of the largest football clubs in Hertfordshire and the primary user of King George V field in Cuffley we desperately require additional on-site pitch capacity to meet both our existing and future demand. As a club with twenty four youth teams ranging from Under 7s to Under 18s and three senior teams we hire pitches at three other locations in addition to our home ground at Cuffley in order to meet our current demand. We also launched girls' football in 2015 and currently have over 20 girls training in our soccer school with the intention of entering them into a girls' league for season 2016/17. The Sport England assessment also clearly identifies a further increased need as a direct result of this residential development and this is confirmed by the Football Association.

Given the nature of the site and its inherent poor drainage we have had to cancel a significant number of games due to high rainfall in recent years with the result that our teams are hiring on a regular basis all weather pitches when available at additional cost to avoid cancelling games. It is also worth noting that the cost to maintain a grass pitch in a fit for purpose condition far exceeds the income received and as a result grass pitches are deteriorating year on year as councils operate to tight budgets. To address this we have recently agreed with the Parish Council a joint funding approach supported with voluntary labour from within the club to enhance the annual maintenance schedule in order to improve the existing grass pitches on the site. Notwithstanding this we would ask that serious consideration also be given to allowing the provision of an all weather facility on the site supported by a significant proportion of the funding covered by the Section 106 agreement to underpin such a project. This would relieve some of the pressure on the existing grass pitches during the winter months and avoid having to cancel all games. This facility could also be utilised by the local primary school and other local organisations. It would also provide a more reliable income source to the Parish Council.

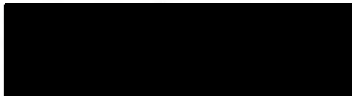


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Furthermore, other football clubs in the surrounding towns e.g. Cheshunt, have direct access to all weather pitches and as a result we are starting to see evidence of players being attracted to clubs who can offer better facilities. This is of real concern to the clubs committee as it constitutes a material risk to our long term future if we are unable to offer comparable facilities.

Finally, we also understand that a footpath is proposed around the perimeter of the King George V field along with additional bins. This will increase general recreational use of the site, especially during the winter months, when the main field can be heavily waterlogged.

Yours faithfully



K. Borley

For and on behalf of Cuffley F.C.

cc.

Mr B. Stubbs - Northaw & Cuffley Parish Council

Mr R. Warren - Sport England

Mr K. Lingham - Hertfordshire Football Association

Mr M. Rayner - Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council