



Matthew Porter
Principal Planning Officer
Horsham District Council

By Email

19 June 2026

Our Ref: DHA/36402

Dear Matthew,

DC/26/0322: PART-DEMOLITION OF EXISTING TEACHING BUILDINGS, MUGAS AND ALL-WEATHER PITCH. CONSTRUCTION OF REPLACEMENT 2-STOREY AND 3-STOREY TEACHING BUILDINGS, FLOOD-LIT ALL-WEATHER PITCH AND HARD SURFACED SPORTS COURTS, WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING, LANDSCAPING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL, UPPER SCHOOL, SHOOTING FIELD, BN44 3RX

I write in respect of the above planning application which is currently under consideration by Horsham District Council.

Thank you for circulating the comments received from Sport England dated 03 June 2026 and 17 June 2026. We welcome Sport England's support of the amendment to provide the all-weather pitch as a 2G surface. Please find our response to the other comments raised set out below.

Comments Received 03 June 2026

England Hockey recommends a Gen2 sand dressed surface is considered, as this will provide the school will a multi-sport surface.

Thank you for providing the specification for the Gen2 sand dressed surface. This has been reviewed by the applicant and will form the final surface for the all-weather pitch.

In relation to sports lighting, EH sets out that 350 lux level is the minimum requirement for hockey. This could have dimmable lights to they can reduce the lux levels and therefore running costs when other sports are using the pitch.

The proposed lighting levels have been reviewed, and it is proposed to provide the flood lighting at 350 lux level. The necessary light spill modelling has been undertaken, which confirms that even with this increase in lux levels, the light spill impact on neighbouring occupiers will remain minimal with a minimum average value of 0.71lux.



EH also welcomes a robust Community Use Agreement to be put in place for both community hockey clubs - Southwick HC and South Downs HC.

Steyning Grammar School is willing to enter into a Community Use Agreement to secure use of, and access, to the proposed facilities. This can be secured via condition.

EH asks that reuse of existing goals (if condition is ok) and replacement pitch furniture is provided. EH would welcome the inclusion of dug outs/shelters too and that on completion, FIH certification is provided out by an approved pitch tester.

The facilities and furniture currently available for the existing all-weather pitch will be re-used at the new all-weather pitch.

In relation to the impact on playing field/natural turf pitches, Sport England notes the proposed pitch layouts and the relocation of the rugby pitch to the northern site to ensure that there is no net loss of pitch provision. The cricket pitch and boundaries still look extremely tight with little run/off area provided. We question the usefulness of a 3no. wicket natural turf pitch. A Non-turf pitch (artificial wicket) is a better option.

The school has confirmed that the cricket pitch is used for school practice only, and that 3no. wickets is sufficient to meet their needs, replacing the existing cricket offering on site. As confirmed previously, the cricket square will have a 45.75m outfield which is the minimum required for senior cricket.

Comments Received 17 June 2026

Sport England therefore asks for a review of the proposed alternative interim arrangements and for more detail about they would practically work for the clubs with the aim of minimising disruption to their activities.

As discussed, we acknowledge the concerns raised by Sport England on the proposed phasing of the development, which would result in a period of time where the all-weather pitch would not be available for use.

However, this phasing is an unavoidable result of the requirements of the wider scheme and has been carefully considered to minimise disruption on school pupils and staff. The primary purpose of this application is to deliver a school replacement scheme, minimising disruption on teaching throughout the construction process is therefore a priority. The only way to avoid a period of time without the all-weather pitch would be to place it further north on the existing playing fields, however this would not be acceptable for other planning reasons, as agreed with Officers through pre-application discussions.

The Department for Education has been in contact with Lancing College that has confirmed availability to accommodate training sessions for South Downs Hockey Club and Southwick Hockey Club on a Thursday, which is the day that the hockey clubs currently train on at Steyning Grammar School. The DfE will continue to work with the affected clubs to help try and find an alternative provision during the construction process.



We trust that this addresses comments raised. However, should you have any queries or require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Blythin
Director



