

From: Oonagh Kerrigan [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 May 2026 12:17
To: Matthew.Porter [REDACTED]
Cc: Matthew Blythin [REDACTED] >
Subject: DC/26/0322: Steyning Grammar School

Good afternoon Matthew,

I hope you are well.

Further to recent conversations, please find the attached letter in response to comments received from Sport England. This confirms the applicant is happy for the application to be determined on the basis that the all-weather pitch will comprise a 2G surface.

Our view is that the attached letter is sufficient to address this change and that the Planning Statement does not need to be updated. However please do let us know should you think otherwise.

I also enclose a design addendum which further sets out how the existing playing pitch capacity can be incorporated on site and that there would be no loss of sports pitches as a result of the development.

Kind regards,

Oonagh Kerrigan MRTPI
Associate



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Steyning Grammar School

Sport England Response

21/04/2026



Version Control

Version	Info	Drawn by	Checked by	Date
C01	First issue	AH	BB	22/04/26



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1.0 Existing Winter Sports Provision

This short report responds to the comment received from Sport England regarding the encroachment onto existing playing fields and provides further clarification on our current proposals.

Sport England provided the following comment in their response dated 17th April 2026;

There is also encroachment onto the southernmost playing area from the proposed new parking and new school buildings which will reduce the capacity of the playing field to accommodate the existing playing pitches (A full size rugby pitch can be laid out in this area.)

Under the proposal, it will not be possible to provide a rugby pitch in this area. The proposed summer sport plans are also unclear as to whether a suitably sized boundary (which complies with ECB guidelines) can be provided for cricket. But it would appear that based on the drawing provided, it may not be possible.

The attached plan (figure 1) illustrates the existing winter pitch layout. Item 6 identifies the rugby pitch under consideration, which measures 100 x 60 metres. Sport England is correct in noting that, under the proposed scheme, this rugby pitch cannot be accommodated in its current location.

To address this and avoid any loss of existing sports provision, we are proposing a reconfiguration of the sports pitch layout.

Please refer to the revised Winter Sports Layout shown on the following page.

Figure 1 Key

1. Existing Rugby pitch measuring 100 x 60m with a principal playing area of 80 x 60m with 10m in goal areas. A 5m run off area has also been shown. Overall size - 70 x 110m
2. Existing under 11's football pitch measuring 40 x 66m with a 3m run off. Overall size 46 x 72m.
3. Existing artificial cricket wicket shown for reference only
4. Existing under 11's football pitch measuring 40 x 66m with a 3m run off. Overall size 46 x 72m
5. Senior football pitch measuring 64 x 100m with a 3m run off. Overall size - 70 x 106m.
6. Existing Rugby pitch measuring 100 x 60m with a principal playing area of 80 x 60m with 10m in goal areas. A 5m run off area has also been shown. Overall size - 70 x 110m
7. 7no. grass cricket wickets. Area measuring 22m x 24m
8. Senior football pitch measuring 64 x 100m with a 3m run off. Overall size - 70 x 106m.
9. Artificial grass pitch - sand filled measuring 97.55m x 61m providing football and hockey
10. MUGA providing 6 netball courts and 6 tennis courts
11. Long jump and pit



Figure 1. Existing winter pitch layout

2.0 Proposed Winter Sports Provision

Figure 2 shows the proposed winter sports provision.

The rugby pitch that has been affected by the proposed development has been moved to the north so there are now two rugby pitches that sit adjacent to one another. The under 11's football pitches have been moved to the south and sit within the reduced area of playing field.

In our proposal, there has been no loss of winter sport provision.

Please note that we do show an additional under 11's football pitch on the northern playing field.

The long jump and sand pit have been relocated and 3no. grass cricket wickets can be provided with a boundary that measures 45.75m which is the minimum outfield for senior cricket.

Note: Formal MUGA provision has been reprovided to the south of the site. The All Weather Pitch has also been reprovided.

Figure 2 Key

1. Existing Rugby pitch measuring 100 x 60m with a principal playing area of 80 x 60m with 10m in goal areas. A 5m run off area has also been shown. Overall size - 70 x 110m
2. Senior football pitch measuring 64x100m with a 3m run off. Overall size - 70 x 106m
3. Existing artificial cricket wicket shown for reference only
4. Rugby pitch re-located measuring 100 x 60m with a principle playing area of 80 x 60m with 10m in goal areas. A 5m run off area has also been shown. Overall size - 70 x 110m
5. Additional under 11's football pitch measuring 40 x 66m with a 3m run off. Overall size 46 x 72m.
6. 2no existing under 11's football pitch re-located measuring 40 x 66m with a 3m run off. Overall size 46 x 72m
7. Existing long jump pit to be reprovided
8. Proposed cricket wickets shown for reference only
9. Senior football pitch measuring 64x100m with a 3m run off. Overall size - 70 x 106m.



Figure 2. Proposed winter pitch layout

3.0 Existing Summer Sport Provision

Figure 3 shows the existing summer sport provision and has been included within this document for reference only.

Figure 3 Key

1. Existing 400m running track
2. Existing artificial cricket wicket measuring 29.46m x 2m with a senior outfield
3. Javelin utilising the artificial cricket wicket
4. Rounders
5. Disc and shot
6. Disc and shot
7. Grass cricket wickets. Area measuring 22m x 24m
8. Artificial grass pitch - sand filled measuring 97.55m x 61m providing football and hockey
9. MUGA providing 6 netball courts and 6 tennis courts
10. Long jump and pit



Figure 3. Existing summer sport provision

4.0 Summer Sport Provision

Figure 4 shows 3 grass cricket wickets with 45.75m outfield which is the minimum distance required for senior cricket.

The long jump and sand pit will be relocated in the location shown.

Figure 4 Key

1. Existing artificial cricket wicket with full size international outfield provided
2. Javelin marked out with cricket wicket used for the run up as currently marked out on site.
3. 8 lane 400m running track
4. Reinstated long jump pit
5. Rounders
6. 3no. grass cricket wicket with a minimum senior sized outfield provided measuring 45.75m from the middle wicket
7. Discus and shot

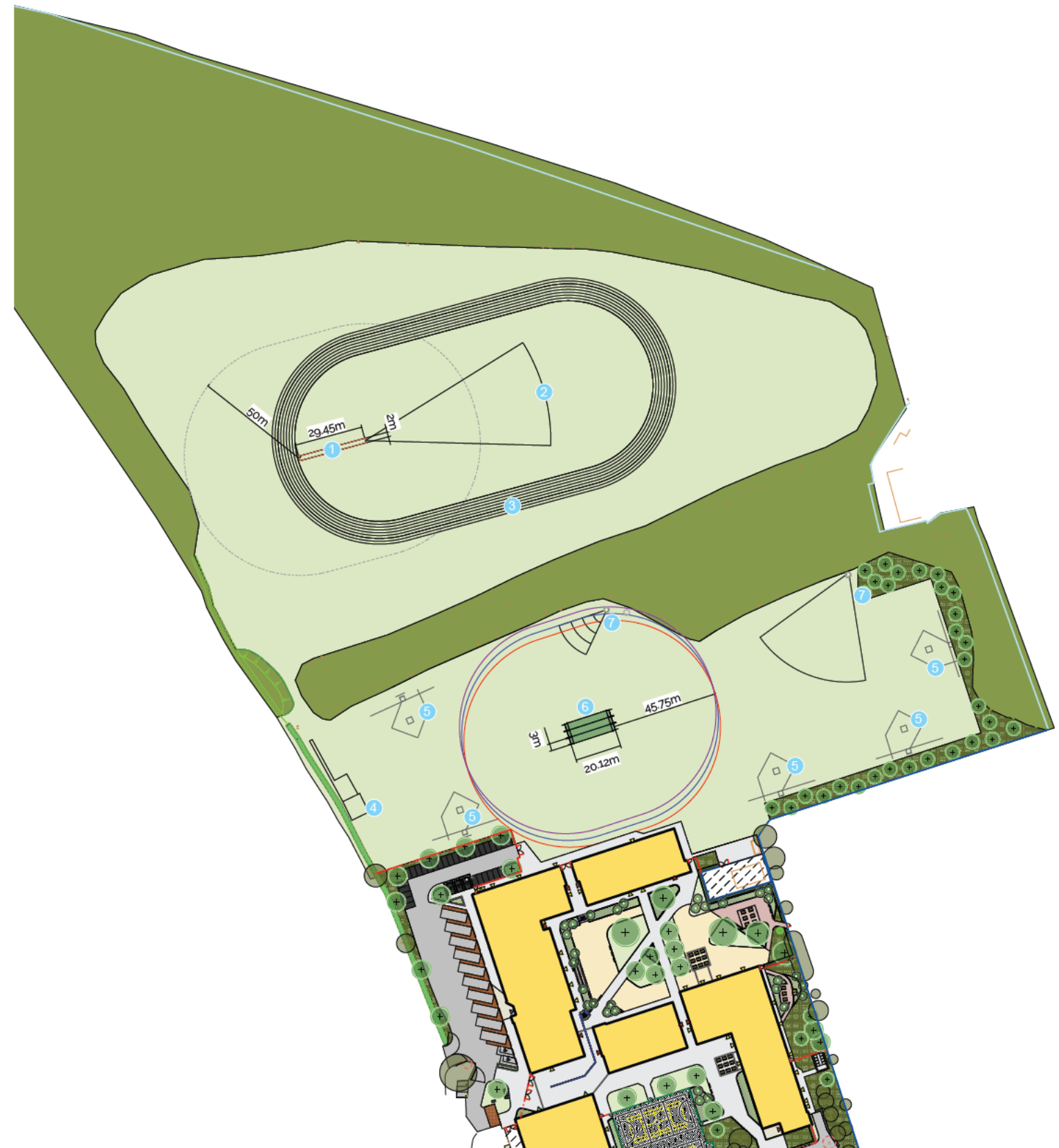


Figure 4. Proposed summer sport provision



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Matthew Porter
Principal Planning Officer
Horsham District Council

By Email

12 May 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 17 April 2026, which we have now had the opportunity to review with the applicant and the project team. Please find our response to the comments raised set out below.

All-Weather Pitch Surface

The applicant acknowledges the stance and concerns raised by Sport England and others and is therefore agreeable for the application to be determined on the basis that the AWP will comprise a 2G surface to allow hockey use.

Temporary Loss

The construction phasing, and the proposed design of the proposals, has been carefully considered to ensure limited disruption to the operations of Steyning Grammar School, which will remain open and operational whilst the new school is built.

We acknowledge Sport England's concerns regarding the construction phasing of the proposals, which would result in a temporary period when the AWP is not available for use.

However, this phasing is an unavoidable result of the requirements of the wider scheme, and above all else, this is a school replacement scheme that needs to minimise disruption on school pupils and teaching. This reflects discussions held at the pre-application stage, as well as ongoing discussions with Officers.



The Department for Education (DfE) has been in direct contact with Lancing College which has two 2G sports pitches that could potentially be hired out during this temporary period. Ongoing discussions have confirmed that Lancing College could accommodate use of the pitch on select weekday evenings. The DfE will continue to work with the clubs affected during this period to help try and find alternative provision during the Build.

Loss of Pitches

Within Sport England's comments, they state that development would not be able to accommodate a rugby pitch in the existing location, and query whether a suitably sized buffer could be provided for the cricket square.

As demonstrated on the proposed Winter Sport Provision plan, the development would still be able to accommodate a rugby pitch, albeit in a new location on the northern playing field. There has simply been a reconfiguration of pitch locations in order to accommodate the full existing winter sports provision.

In respect of cricket, the proposed Summer Sport Provision Plan identifies that the cricket square will have a 45.75m outfield, which is the minimum requirement for senior cricket. A suitable buffer is therefore provided as part of the proposals.

Considering the above and accounting for the two fields on the school Site, there is no loss of pitches as a result of the proposed development.

The proposals further include the provision of brand new indoor sports provision that can be used year-round by the school, as well as the wider community outside of school hours. This new sports hall will include 2no. 4-court halls which can be used for a variety of sports including basketball and indoor cricket and is designed to Sport England standards. This will replace the existing 1-court gymnasium and 4-court sports hall, which has no run-off and does not meet standards. The proposals further incorporate changing facilities for both indoor and outdoor sports uses. This is a significant upgrade and benefit of the proposals.

Leisure Centre Sports Hall

We further acknowledge the comments received from Steyning Parish Council on the proposals. Within these comments, concern is raised that the new sports hall will be placed under the school's letting control which would have an impact on Steyning Leisure Centre.

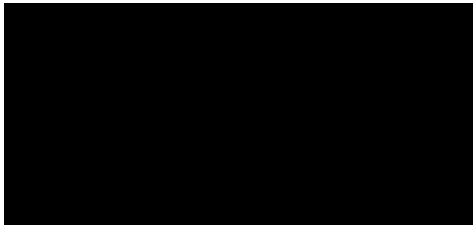
To provide reassurance, the arrangement for the sports hall will remain as existing, whereby it will be for school use during school hours and available for the wider community to hire outside of these hours. As the sports hall will no longer be attached to the leisure centre, it no longer makes practical sense for all lettings to be managed via the leisure centre. However, the school and the leisure centre will continue to liaise closely with one another to arrange and manage bookings for the sports hall.

It remains in the school's interest to have the sports hall let out as much as possible, and Steyning Grammar School have confirmed that they would be happy to update their Community Use Agreement to secure community use of and access to the proposed facilities and this can be secured by condition.



We trust that this addresses comments raised, in particular the previous concerns regarding the surfacing of the all weather pitch, however should you have any queries or require any further information of clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Matthew Blythin
Director

