

From: Planning@horsham.gov.uk
Sent: 26 March 2026 12:19
To: Planning
Subject: Comments for Planning Application DC/26/0322

Categories: Comments Received

Comments summary

Dear Sir/Madam,

Planning Application comments have been made. A summary of the comments is provided below.

Comments were submitted at 26/03/2026 12:18 PM.

Application Summary

Address:	Steyning Grammar Upper School Shooting Field Steyning West Sussex BN44 3RX
Proposal:	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.
Case Officer:	Matthew Porter

[Click for further information](#)

Customer Details

Address:	10 Cobden Road Worthing
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Loss of General Amenity
Comments:	Dear Sir/Madam I write on behalf of Southwick Hockey Club and its members, to formally object to the proposed development affecting the astro pitch at Steyning Grammar School ('SGS'). We request refusal, unless a like for like, hockey suitable, multi sport astro is delivered before the current pitch is lost. Background: Southwick Hockey Club ('SHC') has been in existence for almost 100 years. We rely on this facility for weekly training and competitive league matches. We have regularly used SGS for over 11 years after moving out of the Adur District because our previous two astro pitches were

converted to 3G (hockey cannot be played on 3G).

SHC utilises Steyning Cricket Club to host our post-match teas, generating income to the cricket club and the surrounding community.

SHC has no other viable pitch to play on in the area and the loss or alteration of this pitch would have a significant negative impact on our club, it eliminates access to the wider community, including pupils at SGS, who will have no pitch for sport for many years whilst the development is carried out. There is no interim provision.

This application contradicts Horsham District Council's Playing Pitch Strategy ('PPS') 2018-2031 which clearly states that playing pitches must be protected unless they are demonstrably surplus to requirements or replaced by equivalent or better provision. The pitch at SGS is actively used and, therefore, cannot be considered surplus, and no adequate replacement provision has been identified.

In addition to this clear policy conflict, we would like to raise serious environmental and safety concerns associated with 3G pitches:

Environmental concerns:

- 3G pitches commonly use rubber crumb infill, which can release microplastics into the environment through drainage systems and surface runoff.
- These microplastics contribute to long-term pollution of local soils and waterways, conflicting with environmental protection objectives.
- 3G pitches have a limited lifespan (typically 8-10 years) and require full replacement, generating significant waste and environmental cost.
- They can contribute to the urban heat island effect, becoming significantly hotter than natural grass in warm weather, affecting both usability and local climate conditions.

EU Regulation (EU) 2023/2055 - Microplastics Restriction

This regulation bans the sale of rubber crumb infill from 2031, following an eight year transition period. Installing a surface type already being phased out across Europe is not future proof, creates maintenance risks, and locks the school and community into an environmentally unsustainable choice.

Safety and health concerns:

- There are ongoing concerns about potential exposure to chemicals in rubber crumb infill, particularly for frequent users such as children and young athletes.
- Artificial surfaces can increase the risk of certain types of injuries, including abrasions ("turf burn") and joint stress compared to well-maintained natural or water-based surfaces used for hockey.

The proposed changes, therefore, not only risk the loss of a valued and well-used sports facility, but also introduce environmental harm and potential safety risks, while failing to provide a suitable alternative for hockey use.

The proposal conflicts with:

- Horsham District's PPS 2018-2031 (protection of needed facilities), in particular, 6.7.1 (table 6.9 Site by Site Analysis for hockey) that states: 'the site (SGS) should be protected as hockey provision in the local plan'.
- National planning policy protecting playing fields
- Environmental sustainability principles
- Community health and wellbeing objectives

Our Petition:

Finally, I attach the link to our Club's Petition which has over 650 signatures (so far) in support of saving the astro.

https://www.change.org/Save_our_Club_and_Pitch

For the above reasons, we strongly urge the Council to refuse this application and ensure the continued protection of this essential community sports facility.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED] (Club Secretary)
10 Cobden Road
Worthing
BN11 4BD
[REDACTED]

Kind regards

Telephone:

Email: planning@horsham.gov.uk



**Horsham
District
Council**



Horsham District Council, Albery House, Springfield Road, Horsham, West Sussex RH12 2GB

Telephone: 01403 215100 (calls may be recorded) www.horsham.gov.uk Chief Executive: Jane Eaton