

[REDACTED]
Sent: 02 July 2026 14:57

To: Matthew.Porter [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Planning Application ref number: DC/26/0322 (astro pitch)

Dear Mr Porter

We note the response from Matthew Blythin of DHA on 19 June 2026.

It states ***“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”.***

Unfortunately, neither hockey club has been contacted by the DfE with regards to provision for the period when the pitch at Steyning will be unavailable.

Lancing College contacted Southwick Hockey Club to say that the DfE had spoken to them about pitch availability, however, they are unable to provide any availability for match days on Saturday (the day that league matches are played) and this is the extent to which we have been helped.

We would be very happy to communicate directly with the DfE, however we have no details of who is the appointed representative.

We feel that everything has been overlooked as to the crucial reality of how our clubs will survive until the new pitch at Steyning is ready in some 5 years' time.

Please arrange a joint meeting with Horsham DC, DfE, Southwick Hockey Club, South Downs Hockey Club, Sport England and England hockey prior to the planning consultation date of the 8th July as this is the only way that affected parties can resolve this situation. The hockey season starts in early September so the solution needs to be in place well before this date.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Southwick Hockey Club