

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 May 2026 13:51
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: DC/26/0501 King George V Recreation Ground Shermanbury Road EnvH response

Hi Bethan

Thanks for the consultation request.

I have no concerns regarding the application

The change to sand infill is likely to alter the character of the noise from the AGP but there is no authoritative UK guidance which identifies there would be a meaningful increase in noise compared to the approved rubber infill. The facility is for informal recreational use and the operational management plan will remain in force.

I would suggest the application is considered with regard to the Position Statement on 3G pitches published by Sport England in June 2025 which responds to the DEFRA report published in May 2025 that identified 3G pitches as the highest source of intentionally added microplastics, including rubber infill, found in the environment.

The position statement notes that many of the alternatives to rubber crumb are new to the market, and little is known about their performance, durability, availability, lifecycle cost and importantly the impact on users.

The Position Statement also advises that in September 2023, the European Commission adopted the restriction on the sale of intentionally added microplastics onto the European market, which includes rubber infill for 3G AGPs. The restriction becomes effective from October 2031 and rubber crumb will not be available for purchase within the EU. This may make the maintenance of these pitches after this time difficult.

Regards

Lee

