

From: Owen Neal <Owen.Neal@sportengland.org>
Sent: 03 June 2026 13:39:30 UTC+01:00
To: "Matthew.Porter" <Matthew.Porter@horsham.gov.uk>; "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: LA APP REF: DC/26/0322 - SITE AADDRESS: STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL, UPPER SCHOOL SHOOTING FIELD, BN44 3RX - SE REF: PA/26/SE/HO/73425
Attachments: fih-facilities-guidance-gen-2-multi-sport-pitches.pdf

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.

Dear Matthew,

Thank you for reconsulting Sport England on the amended details.

Sport England welcomes the amendment to the proposal to provide a hockey compliant artificial surface instead of a 3G rubber crumb football compliant artificial surface.

We have sought England Hockey's comments on the amendment to the proposal and they have confirmed that a 2G pitch is suitable for the level at which the hockey clubs play. England Hockey recommends a Gen2 sand dressed surface is considered, as this will provide the school with a multi-sport surface. This will help maximise the use of the pitch. That would be a category 4 FIH pitch, based on the FIH guidance (<https://www.fih.hockey/about-fih/fih-quality-programme/resources-hub/facilities-guidance-resources/11-a-side-hockey-facilities>). Also attached is information on the Gen2 surface. England Hockey is happy to liaise directly with the consultant on the technical specification of the pitch if required.

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.

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

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.

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.

Sport England welcomes the proposed amendments, but can confirmation be provided that suitable sports lighting for hockey will be re-provided, as the proposed lighting levels are suitable for football only? We would also welcome further consideration on the proposed cricket offer.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Owen Neal

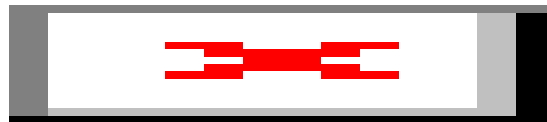
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