

From: Planning@horsham.gov.uk <Planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Sent: 16 April 2026 23:27:37 UTC+01:00
To: "Planning" <planning@horsham.gov.uk>
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 16/04/2026 11:27 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: 25 Hurston Close Worthing

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Design - Loss of General Amenity
Comments:	The loss of the astroturf pitch and its proposed replacement with a 3G pitch is not a like-for-like replacement. Despite the inaccurate planning drawings which indicate through pitch markings that hockey can be played on a pitch which is currently designated to be a 3G surface, the current plans equate to a loss of a

community facility - one that is currently used by several community groups who will not be able to transfer their sports to a 3G pitch.

The loss of a hockey pitch at Steyning Grammar School is in direct contravention of Horsham District Council's Playing Pitch Strategy

(https://www.horsham.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/138318/SS13-HDC-Playing-Pitch-Strategy,-Strategy-Document-and-Action-Plan-Stage-D.pdf)

This strategy states explicitly that the council should: "As part of the Local Plan and ongoing planning policy, protect all sites designated as hockey playing fields." (Recommendation H1) It also goes on to refer to the replacement of sand-based astroturf pitches with a 3G surface, stating the council will "Safeguard sand based AGP provision for future use and not allow the conversion from sand based to 3G AGP's to occur unless offset with new development." (Recommendation H3)

The current plans clearly fall short of this.

Furthermore, replacing an astroturf pitch with a 3G surface LIMITS the sports which can be played at the school - both by the local community and its pupils.

I would highlight facilities at Hailsham Community College (now Hailsham Academy) as an example of how school sports facilities can be enhanced to encourage and indeed increase participation in a range of sports through appropriate planning. At Hailsham, an aging astroturf pitch has recently been replaced with a new sand-dressed pitch, with a 3G pitch built IN ADDITION to this. These facilities are both regularly booked out all day on a Saturday, as well as during weekday evenings. The sand-dressed pitch can be used for hockey AND football, as well as for other uses. This would result in an enhancement of the school's existing facilities without any community groups losing out.

To avoid the loss of a pitch during the building works, a sand dressed pitch could be laid to the north of the proposed building site where there is plenty of space.

Increasing the facilities under the proposals to include both surfaces (2 pitches) would be the most appropriate solution as it would address the school's desire to have an all-weather surface on which to play football, whilst also meaning Horsham District Council can fulfil the requirements laid out in its own Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 - 2031 Needs Assessment (https://www.horsham.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/138317/SS12-HDC-Playing-Pitch-Strategy-2018-2031-Needs-Assessment-Stage-C.pdf). This document states clearly that "the Steyning Grammar site should be protected as Hockey provision

in
the Local Plan" (page 154).

I urge the council to adhere to its own Playing Pitch Strategy and ensure the future provision of a sand-based pitch at Steyning Grammar School on which hockey can continue to be enjoyed by the community (including the pupils at the school).

Kind regards

Telephone:

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