

From: Planning@horsham.gov.uk <Planning@horsham.gov.uk>
Sent: 26 March 2026 09:21:27 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 26/03/2026 8:21 AM.

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: Northmead The Paddocks Upper Beeding

Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Loss of General Amenity - Other
Comments:	I am writing to object to the current plans for the redevelopment of Steyning Grammar School (SGS), specifically the proposal to remove the existing astroturf pitch and replace it with a 3G football only surface. The current astro is not exclusively used for hockey but a wide range of sports and events use the facility.

Loss of a Regulation Hockey Surface

As a hockey player, I rely on the SGS astroturf for both training and competitive play. A 3G surface is not suitable for hockey, and in competitive contexts it is not legally compliant with England Hockey standards. This change would therefore eliminate the only local full size, hockey appropriate surface and therefore eliminating hockey from SGS and the community.

The existing astroturf has served not only school pupils but also local clubs, adults, juniors, and community sports programmes. Losing it removes a community sports asset that cannot be replaced by a 3G pitch.

Impact on School Sport and Student Opportunity

Hockey is a major school sport requiring a proper surface for safe play. Without a pitch:

- School teams cannot train or compete.
 - Physical education provision is diminished.
 - The school's reputation for offering a breadth of sport will suffer.
- Given that the new campus is intended to create a "sustainable learning environment," eliminating a key sports facility undermines that vision.

This is a disproportionate impact on one sport compared with other activities that will remain adequately provided for. SGS will have limited sporting facilities for the 4/5 year build period - the astro is the first asset to be removed and the planned 3G pitch last to be completed therefore students will be significantly disadvantaged, some for 80% of their school life. Reduce participation in sport is contradicting both community health objectives and national school sports priorities.

Request for Reconsideration

I respectfully ask the planning authority and the school to reconsider the sequence and nature of facility replacement. Specifically:

1. Retain/Create a hockey suitable astroturf surface within the final masterplan, rather than replacing it eventually with a 3G surface.
2. Maintain continuity of provision so the community is not left without a hockey facility.
3. Engage with local hockey clubs and players to design a solution that truly serves the community and the students of SGS.

This objection is not to the redevelopment, but to the severe and avoidable impact on hockey users created by the current pitch plan.

Kind regards

Telephone:

Email: planning@horsham.gov.uk



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