
From: Planning@horsham.gov.uk
Sent: 17 June 2026 19:32
To: Planning
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 17/06/2026 7:32 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

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Customer Details

Address:	10 Cobden Road Worthing
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Comments Details

Commenter Type:	Member of the Public
Stance:	Customer objects to the Planning Application
Reasons for comment:	- Design - Loss of General Amenity
Comments:	Dear Sir/Madam

We are pleased that the Application Reference: DC/26/0322 for Steyning Grammar School has been amended to change the proposed 3G pitch to a 2G to allow league hockey to be played on it. However, the fact still remains (despite all the policies in place and reiterated below) that there is no alternative provision of a 2G astro pitch for the immediate future (and until the new 2G astro pitch is built, in some 4-5 years' time).

The above important issue was detailed by many commenters on the application portal, and indeed, highlighted in published correspondence by [REDACTED] Sport England Planning Manager, to Matthew Porter of Horsham District Council on 17th April 2026, details the policy that must be adhered to by the Council, including the Playing Fields Policy, paragraph 104 of the National Planning Policy Framework ('NPPF') and the Horsham Playing Pitch Strategy ('PPS').

The unmitigated issue of not allowing a sports facility to be removed without:

- a replacement that must be available prior to the loss of the existing facility;
- be located within a geographically appropriate catchment to serve the affected clubs;
- provide secure community use, including long-term access for Southwick Hockey Club and South Downs Hockey Club.

Given that the new 2G pitch in the current proposal is not planned to be available until approximately 4 or 5 years from the commencement of the development, then without a credible alternative for the intervening years it is very likely that neither Southwick Hockey Club nor South Downs Hockey Club will survive this hiatus.

Extract from correspondence from Sport England on 17.4.2026

The benefits of the new sports facilities do not outweigh the harm caused by the loss of the playing field, which will reduce the sporting capacity of the site to accommodate playing pitches, including the loss of the artificial hockey pitch. This artificial pitch is used by 2no. community hockey clubs which will be displaced and is likely to affect the sustainability of these clubs. Furthermore, this loss is not supported by the evidence base (Playing Pitch Strategy) for the area.

Pre-application advice

The agent has previously engaged with Sport England at the pre-application stage on the proposal. In summary, Sport England considered a proposal that involves the loss of any hockey capacity at the school would be unacceptable unless full compensatory mitigation is identified and fully secured in advance of any loss of existing facilities in accordance with our policy.

Sport England considers that the application does not address the primary issue raised at pre-application stage: that is, the proposed loss of the sand-based artificial hockey pitch without compensation.

The PPS explicitly states that such facilities should be protected, reflecting both current demand and the strategic need to retain accessible, community-use hockey provision. The loss of this pitch would, therefore, directly conflict with the strategic evidence base. Southwick Hockey Club and South Downs Hockey Club are both established clubs with strong community roots and have been identified through hockey's South-East Futures as priority clubs for junior development and participation growth. The removal of their home pitch without appropriate replacement would:

- displace both clubs from their established base
- severely impact their ability to train and host matches
- place at risk the sustainability of both clubs.

It should be noted, that although the Department for Education have been in contact with Lancing College on the club's behalf to try to find us alternative provision at their site, there is no availability on Saturdays (which is when league hockey matches are played).

Given all of the above, we would be grateful, therefore, that the policies within the Council and government guidelines designed to protect these key community facilities, are adhered to, otherwise what is the point of producing policy documents that are discarded so easily -making them worthless.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
(For and on behalf of Southwick Hockey Club)
10 Cobden Road, Worthing, BN11 4BD
[REDACTED]

Kind regards

Telephone:

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**Horsham
District
Council**



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