



HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Development Control
FROM:	Environmental Health and Licensing
REFERENCE:	DC/23/0406
LOCATION:	Land To The West of Ashington C of E School, Park Lane, Ashington, West Sussex
DESCRIPTION:	Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 180 dwellings, sports pavilion, sport pitches and allotments; with associated access, landscaping, open space and infrastructure.
RECOMMENDATION:	Objection
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATION: Comments relating to below documents: Ardent Consulting Engineers Noise Assessment dated August 2023	

MAIN COMMENTS:**Noise**

We have reviewed the Ardent Consulting Engineers Noise Assessment, dated February 2023, and we have the following comments to make.

1. We note that the following is stated in section 5.5 of the above report *The prediction of noise from the MUGA and the sports pitch is conducted based on guidance issued by Sports England in relation to artificial grass pitches (AGPs). Based on this guidance, an ambient noise level of 58dB LAeq,1hour at 10m from the side line of the MUGA and the sports pitch has been used for assessment. It is worth noting that noise levels are likely to be lower than this in reality, however in the absence of other data this provides a worst case assessment.*
2. We appreciate that the Sports England guidance is referenced, in our view this guidance is however not appropriate as it does not take into account the noise associated with facilities of this nature notably impact noise, shouting, whistles etc. Experience of complaints generated by similar facilities close to residential properties has shown that residents do not experience the noise from the pitches such as ball strikes, impact noise, shouts, whistles, foul language etc as an average noise level. Instead these are heard as a series of unconnected, discrete loud events which can happen many times during a competitive match or training session. The sporadic and unpredictable nature of these noise events only serves to magnify their impact. Therefore there are real concerns that adopting an average noise level approach, as detailed in the Sports England guidance, does not sufficiently characterise the significant impacts on the amenity of nearby residents.
3. We note that the following is stated in section 5.6 *The predicted noise level of the MUGA and the sports pitch and the nearest receptors are 50dB LAeq,1hour and 53dB LAeq,1hour. These predicted noise levels are 3dB and 7dB above the measured ambient sound levels respectively.* Given the low background noise levels on the site and the character of the noise associated with sports pitches, as detailed above, in our view façade noise levels of 50dB LAeq and 53dB LAeq,1hour have the potential to cause significant adverse impact to residential amenity.
4. In addition to the above, from the information submitted in support of the application it also still not clear what the operational hours of the sports pitches and MUGA will, whether they will be managed, whether they will be community use etc.

Given the above Environmental Health are of the view that the application is insufficiently detailed to be determined. We are therefore still not in a position where we can support this application.

ANY RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS:

N/A

NAME:

Kevin Beer

DEPARTMENT:

Environmental Health and Licensing

DATE:

25/10/2023