

North Yorkshire Council

FAO: Sukaina Devraj

By email

Date: 6 June 2024

Dear Sukaina,

**Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)
(England) Order 2015**

Application Reference: NY/2024/0072/FUL

Sport England Reference: PA/24/Y/NYO/67697

Site: MOWBRAY SCHOOL, MASHAM ROAD, BEDALE, DL8 2SD

Proposal: Alterations to existing sports hall, erection of ground and mezzanine levels extension incorporating PV solar arrays and creation of footpath on land at Mowbray School

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Sport England – Statutory consultee role and policy

We understand that you have consulted us as a statutory consultee in line with the above Order. Therefore, we have considered the application in light of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), in particular paragraph 103, and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy, which is presented within our 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document':

www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy

Sport England's policy is to oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of:

- all or any part of a playing field, or
- land which has been used as a playing field land remains undeveloped, or

- land allocated for use as a playing field

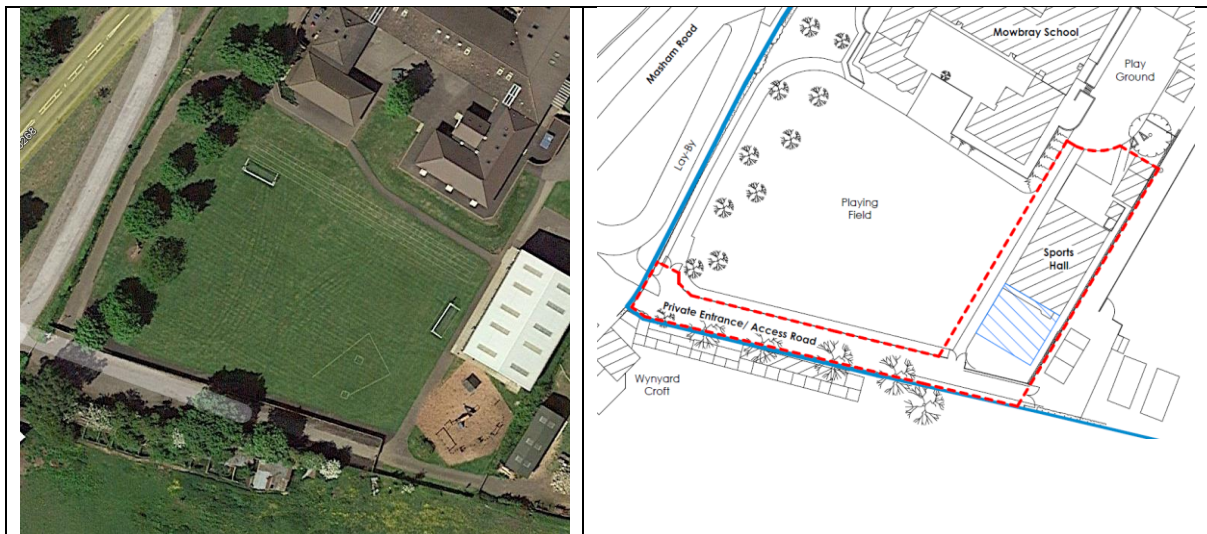
unless, in the judgement of Sport England the development as a whole meets with one or more of five specific exceptions. A summary of the exceptions is provided in the annex to this response.

The Proposal and its Impact on the playing field

The proposal is for alterations to existing sports hall, erection of ground and mezzanine levels extension incorporating PV solar arrays and creation of footpath on land at Mowbray School.

Assessment against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and NPPF

The proposed block plan (hatched in blue) shows that the proposed extension will be on the site of an existing hard play area that contains play equipment/climbing frames:



The proposal will not result in the loss of any grass playing field nor any formal sport facility. Sport England notes that the proposed extension contains storage, changing rooms and a rebound hall. These will assist in supporting the use of the existing sport hall that will remain.

In light of the above, the proposal is considered to meet policy exception E3 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy in that:

“The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

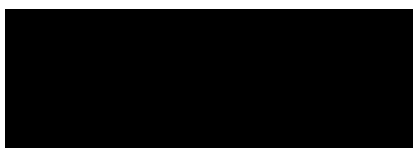
- reduce the size of any playing pitch;*
- result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);*
- reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;*
- result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;*
or
- prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.”*

Sport England’s Position

Given the above, Sport England raises **no objection** to the application because it is considered to accord with exception E3 of our Playing Fields Policy and paragraph 103 of the NPPF.

The absence of an objection to this application, in the context of the Town and Country Planning Act, cannot be taken as formal support or consent from Sport England or any National Governing Body of Sport to any related funding application, or as may be required by virtue of any pre-existing funding agreement.

Yours sincerely,

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Richard Fordham BA(Hons), DipTP, MTP, MRTPI, AIPROW
Planning Manager

Annex

The Five Exceptions to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy

Exception 1

A robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

Exception 2

The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field, and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.

Exception 3

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- reduce the size of any playing pitch;
- result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
- reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;
- result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- or
- prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.

Exception 4

The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:

- of equivalent or better quality, and
- of equivalent or greater quantity, and
- in a suitable location, and
- subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.

Exception 5

The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

The full 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document' is available to view at:

www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy