

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 July 2022 15:14
To: Trueman, Kerry
Subject: Warrington Local Plan Examination Matter 6c - Fiddlers Ferry

Categories: Hearing Statement

Dear Kerry Trueman,

Further to the comments previously made by Sport England on the above matter, Sport England would like to provide the following statement:

The Warrington Updated Proposed Submission Version Local Plan Policy MD3 – Fiddlers Ferry still makes no reference to the current playing field, which is understood to include one adult football pitch and one bowling green, as well as ancillary facilities. The total area of playing field should be determined and included within the policy.

It is noted that clause (i) will require the allocation to include playing pitches. It is assumed that the purpose of the clause is to secure a number of playing pitches that satisfies the sporting needs generated by the proposed development. However, no ancillary facilities would be secured under this clause. More importantly, Sport England consider that this clause would not secure the current playing field and supporting ancillary facilities as per the requirements of paragraph 99 of the NPPF.

The definition of ‘playing field’ and ‘playing pitch’ is different as explained in Section 1 of the Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy and Guidance 2021. Please follow this link for the document - https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport?section=playing_fields_policy

The planning definition of playing field is the whole of the site that contains a pitch. Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy covers the entire playing field site and not just the areas currently marked out with pitches. This is because playing field is seen as a resource for pitches to be marked out on, repositioned to allow areas of the playing field to rest from over play, and to change from one pitch sport type to another to meet demand. As such, the current area of playing field (and not just the number of playing pitches) should be protected or replaced, together with the necessary ancillary facilities, such as changing facilities and car parking to help support its use.

Furthermore, the policy consideration does not give any consideration as to how the potential development will not prejudice the use of the current playing field such as the proximity of potential development to the boundary of a playing field, which may hinder the use of any playing pitch or the potential loss of existing car parking or changing facilities, which support the use of the playing field.

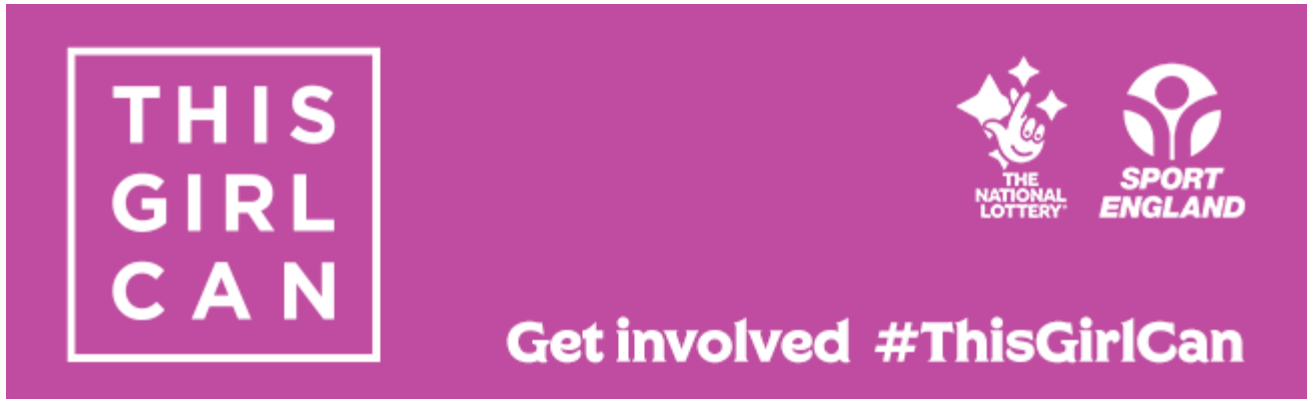
The policy should be reworded to ensure that the current playing field is protected or replaced in accordance with paragraph 99 of the NPPF and Sport England’s Playing Fields Policy and Guidance.

Additionally, the proposed development boundary of the site allocation appears to abut an existing golf course known as Fiddlers Ferry Golf Course. The policy provides no requirement to ensure that any proposed development would not have a prejudicial impact on the operation of the golf course, such as the need for a ball trajectory risk assessment. As such, the policy should be amended to ensure that there is no prejudicial impact on the adjacent golf course in accordance with paragraph 187 of the NPPF.

Sport England do not need to be present at the oral examination but would like the concerned planning policy amended to reflect the above concerns.

Kind Regards,

Christopher Carroll
Planning Manager



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