

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 July 2022 13:37
To: Trueman, Kerry
Subject: Warrington Local Plan Examination Matter 6d - Peel Hall

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 MD4 – Peel Hall clauses (1. m), (6), (27), in Sport England’s opinion wrongly makes reference to ‘sports pitches,’ ‘playing pitches’ and ‘existing pitches.’

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 total 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.

Sport England also note that the definition of a playing field and not a playing pitch/sports pitch is included within the glossary of the Local Plan.

Furthermore, the policy consideration should give due consideration as to how the potential development will not prejudice the use of the 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.

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.

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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