

Ribble Valley BC

FAO: Lyndsey Hayes

By email only

21st February 2025

Application Reference: 3/2024/1027

Site: KESTOR LANE RECREATION GROUND, PARK VIEW FLEET STREET, LONGRIDGE PR3 3ED

Proposal: Discharge of conditions 3 (construction method statement) and 4 (details of contractor's compound), 5 (ball strike assessment) and 6 (separation fence) from planning permission 3/2024/0656

Sport England Reference: P A / 2 4 / N W / R V / 6 9 5 2 1

Thank you for consulting Sport England in respect of the additional information submitted under the above planning reference to discharge the above conditions of planning permission 3/2024/0656 with specific regard to conditions 3 and 5.

Additional Information:

- Email from planning case officer dated 6th February 2025 and the information from the application therein regarding pitch layouts.

Sport England has assessed the submitted documents and has sought the advice of the Football Foundation who have commented as follows:-

- *Lancashire FA have confirmed with the club that a 9v9 pitch has been marked and the construction is now taking place at site Monday – Friday. The club advised they are utilising the pitch for weekend usage and are not impacted by the fenced works. The club have advised they requested the Council to mark a 7v7 pitch within the confines of the 9v9 which the Council have agreed and the Club are content with.*
- *The club have demonstrated via comms with Lancs FA there is a need for the additional 7v7 which could be accommodated fully post construction without overmarking the existing pitch. Previous comments stand regarding intensification of use on the one space is highly likely to impact on pitch quality if that was long term. Previous comments still remain on the ball strike. Just because the current teams using it do not have adult provision, the site COULD still accommodate adult play for this club or others in the future which would be a risk.*

Condition 3 (construction method statement)

In view of the submitted information from the Council and the comments from the Football Foundation, the current arrangement on the site is not prejudice the use of the pitch area.

Therefore, the submitted information is appropriate to enable a recommendation to discharge the submission element of condition 3.

Condition 5 (ball strike assessment)

The Football Foundation remain concerned about the potential for ball strike emanating from the use of the football pitch and impacting on the cycle facility where users – likely youngsters – will be focused on

their own activity and will be unaware of any stray balls which could result in injury. The use of the pitch for football could therefore be prejudiced.

The submitted ball strike assessment appears to relate to the use of the 9v9 pitch by younger players, the Football Foundation are concerned that the pitch can legitimately be used by adults which is likely to have more onerous outcomes. Until Sport England is satisfied that ball strike has been dealt with appropriately, condition 5 cannot be discharged.

Therefore, Sport England maintains its objection to the discharge condition 5 at this time.

Conclusion

Therefore, in view of this Sport England **maintains its objection** to the submission elements of condition 5 being discharged at this time.

Sport England is satisfied that the submission element of condition 3 can be discharged at this time.

Further submissions should be forwarded to planning.north@sportengland.org

Yours sincerely

Pauline Shearer MSc BA(Hons) MRTPI

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