



Longridge

Town Council

Considerations by Longridge Town Council

Application: 3/2026/0259. Brian Holden Memorial Playing Field, Longridge

Longridge Town Council has considered the amended application for the proposed synthetic turf pitch, including fencing, spectator areas, storage areas and floodlighting at the Brian Holden Memorial Playing Field, Mardale Road, Longridge.

The Town Council supports the principle of improving sports facilities in Longridge and recognises the significant benefits that the proposed development could bring to local sports clubs, young people and the wider community.

However, the Council wishes to make the following observations:

Parking Arrangements

The Council considers that, on match days and during organised sporting events, parking charges should not apply to users of the facility. Introducing parking charges for participants, spectators and volunteers could act as a disincentive to community sport and place an unnecessary financial burden on those attending sporting activities as well as reducing antisocial parking.

Accordingly, Longridge Town Council requests that Ribble Valley Borough Council give consideration to implementing **free parking on match days and during organised sporting events**.

Biodiversity Net Gain and Landscaping

The Council also requests that Ribble Valley Borough Council give careful consideration to opportunities to enhance **Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)** as part of the development. Whilst recognising the sporting nature of the proposal, the Council believes that environmental enhancements should be incorporated wherever practicable.

In particular, the Council would welcome consideration of:

- The planting of **native tree species** around the perimeter of the site where appropriate;
- The creation of areas of **enhanced species-rich grassland** surrounding the pitch and associated infrastructure;
- An increased programme of **native bulb planting** to improve seasonal biodiversity value and visual amenity;
- The incorporation of wider ecological enhancements to ensure that the development delivers a measurable and lasting biodiversity benefit.

The Council considers that these measures would assist in improving the environmental credentials of the development, enhance the local landscape and contribute positively to the Borough's biodiversity objectives.

Subject to the above observations, Longridge Town Council supports the proposed development.

Submitted to RVBC by the Town Clerk on 05-07-2026