

Steve Ashdown

From: Jo Edwards <Jo.Edwards@sportengland.org >
Sent: 10 January 2025 17:16
To: Steve Ashdown
Subject: DM/23/2866 - Land East of Ansty, Haywards heath RH17 5AE Sport England Ref: PA/23/SE/MX/66268

Dear Steve,

Please accept my apologies for the excessive delay in coming back to you with a response on the applicant's additional information on Sport England's initial comments.

I don't really have too much to add. If the Council considers that improvements at Beech Farm Field are appropriate to meet pitch sport demand arising from the development, then Sport England would not object. The NTS feasibility assessment identifies a number of interventions at significant cost that could increase that playing capacity of the site. It would be useful to understand what the capacity and use of the pitches are currently and what their capacity would be in the event that all of the identified improvements are able to be implemented; and if that would meet the additional demand arising from the proposed development.

In that regard, it appears from the feasibility report conclusions, that there may be some uncertainty as to if all the improvements identified would be possible to implement. What would be the implications for capacity of only partial improvements being possible. The Football Foundation has suggested that a financial sum could be negotiated based on the NTS feasibility but that some flexibility might be built into any subsequent s.106 to allow a portion to be spent elsewhere, for example at Whiteman's Green (or other sites) if that represents the only practical option. Sport England would recommend that the use of the site(s) post improvement is subject to a community Use Agreement to ensure that the benefits are available to the new population.

Regarding contributions towards additional 3G provision and indoor facilities, Sport England would always expect new development to contribute towards meeting the additional demand it generates. The Sports Facility Calculator is as the applicant says, a starting point and does not take existing provision within the catchment into account. It is unfortunate that the Council does not have a suitable evidence base that would inform negotiations on the matter. The Council will have to determine if it is inappropriate to seek any type of contribution for built facilities, or if the range of sport and recreation facilities already proposed by the application are of sufficient quantum and type to negate the need for those facilities.

Please let me know if any further advice is required.

Best Regards

Jo

Jo Edwards MRTPI
Planning Manager

She/her

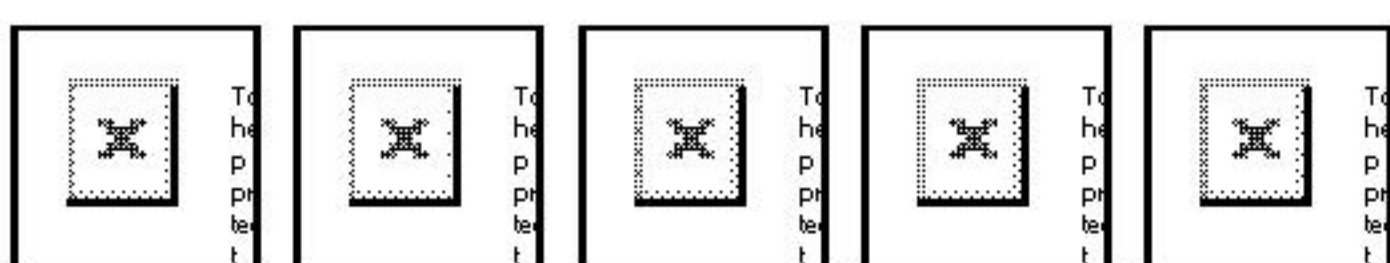
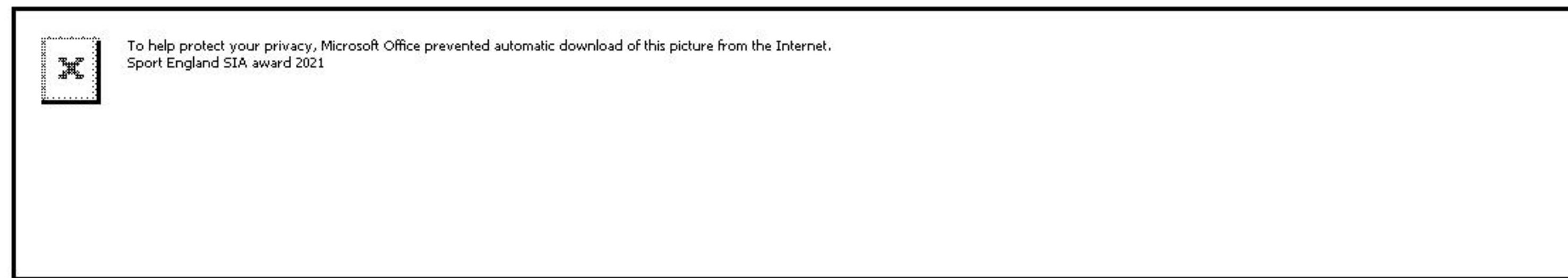
Please note, I don't work Fridays

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