



Creating a sporting habit for life

Our ref: LDF/Merton

30 August 2013

Future Merton
London Borough of Merton
12th Floor Civic Centre
London Road
Merton

Dear Sir/Madam

SITES AND POLICIES PLAN AND POLICIES MAP – PRE-SUBMISSION PUBLICATION

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above document. Sport England is the Government agency responsible for delivering the Government's sporting objectives. Maximising the investment into sport and recreation through the land use planning system is one of our national and regional priorities. You will also be aware that Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing fields.

In response to the consultation, Sport England would like to make the following comments on the LDF consultation document:

Policies

3. Support for infrastructure – community facilities and education - DM.C1 Community facilities – Alternative option – 3.1. Each type of community facility could have its own policy

Sport England supports this alternative option and indoor and outdoor sports facilities should have a specific section within this policy or a separate policy.

Providing for sport through new development

Planning Policy Objective 8 within Sport England's Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation: Development Control Guidance Note (2009) Appendix (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/>), aims to promote the use of planning obligations as a way of securing the provision of new or enhanced places for sport and a contribution towards their future maintenance, to meet the needs arising from new development. Sport England's policy is consistent with that of the Government's set out in the NPPF.

Sport England would object to the loss of any indoor or outdoor sports facilities in line with Sport England policy and the NPPF. The alternative policy should therefore provide a specific section in relation to indoor and outdoor sports facilities.

Protecting existing places for sport





Planning Policy Objective 2 within Sport England's Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation: Development Control Guidance Note (2009) Appendix (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/>), aims to prevent the loss of existing sports facilities. Sport England opposes the redevelopment of such facilities, unless equivalent or better replacement facilities are provided (in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility) in a suitable location. The only exception to this policy is where it can be proved that the facility is genuinely redundant and there is no demand for a replacement based on a thorough local assessment.

Protection of playing fields for sport

Planning Policy Objective 6 within Sport England's Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation: Development Control Guidance Note (2009) Appendix (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/>), aims to ensure that there is no further reduction in the supply of conveniently located, quality playing fields for sport to satisfy current and likely future demand. Sport England will normally oppose development that would lead to the loss of, or prejudice the use of, all or part of a playing field, without meeting at least one of the specific exception criteria identified in Sport England's policy 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England' (1997), a copy of which can be downloaded from our website at <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/planning-applications/playing-field-land/>.

Sites

The following sites include (or potentially include) existing sports facilities:

- Wimbledon YMCA
- Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium
- Southey Bowling Club

Protecting existing places for sport

Planning Policy Objective 2 within Sport England's Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation: Development Control Guidance Note (2009) Appendix (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/>), aims to prevent the loss of existing sports facilities. Sport England opposes the redevelopment of such facilities, unless equivalent or better replacement facilities are provided (in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility) in a suitable location. The only exception to this policy is where it can be proved that the facility is genuinely redundant and there is no demand for a replacement based on a thorough local assessment.

Furthermore, Sport England evidence, based on outputs from the Facilities Planning Model (FPM), shows certain provision issues in relation to strategic built community sports facilities such as sports halls, swimming pools and synthetic turf pitches. It is therefore essential that the above Planning Policy is applied.

Sport England **objects** to the allocation of the land at the above sites unless the above policy is fulfilled.

Leisure facilities are proposed (or are potentially proposed) for the following sites:



- P4 Land Adjoining Wimbledon Theatre

Planning new places for sport

Planning Policy Objective 7 within Sport England's Spatial Planning for Sport and Active Recreation: Development Control Guidance Note (2009) Appendix (<http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/development-management/>), aims to support the development of new facilities, the enhancement of existing facilities and the provision and/or improvement of access to the natural environment which will secure opportunities to take part in sport and which can be achieved in a way which meets sustainable development objectives.

We hope these comments can be given full consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or would like to discuss the response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dale Greetham".

Dale Greetham
Planner

Direct Line: 0207 273 1642
E-Mail: dale.greetham@sportengland.org