

FAO: South Derbyshire District Council

By email only

Date: 19th November 2025

Application Reference: DMOT/2025/0405

Site: Land at SK2420 2230, Drakelow Park, Walton Road, Drakelow, Swadlincote DE15 9UD

Proposal: Approval of details reserved by conditions 4 (Playing Field Maintenance) and 7 (Access Gates) attached to planning permission ref DMPA/2024/0077 for Approval of reserved matters (access, layout, scale, appearance and landscaping) pursuant to outline permission ref: DMPA/2020/1460 for a two form entry primary school at Land at Drakelow Park, Walton Road, Drakelow, Swadlincote.

Sport England Reference: PA/25/EM/SD/70759

Thank you for consulting Sport England in respect of the details submitted for the discharge of the above planning conditions. Sport England would like to provide comments on the revised Maintenance Programme carried out by TGMS consultants, ref: TGMS1378.2 and provided with an email correspondence dated 20th October 2025. It is understood that this additional information has been provided in response to Sport England's comments date 5th June 2025.

Planning Condition 4 wording:

Before the development hereby approved is commenced above slab level a schedule of playing field maintenance including a programme for implementation for a minimum period of 5 years starting from the commencement of use of the development shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority after consultation with Sport England. Following the commencement of use of the development the approved schedule shall be complied with in full.

Reason: To ensure that the playing field is first established as a functional playing field to an adequate standard and is fit for purpose in accordance with the requirements of Policy INF6 of the South Derbyshire Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

As part of this assessment, Sport England has consulted the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding. The NGBs act as Sport England's technical advisors for their relative sports. Unfortunately, at the time of writing no comments had been received.

Previously the Football Foundation stated:

The FF are satisfied that the details outlined within the maintenance plan would ensure the playing field is established to an adequate standard and can be maintained at that level through the use of the plan.

It is highly recommended that any individual involved with the maintenance of a site should become qualified through a recognised training provider such as the GMA, please follow this link to the courses available online –

<https://www.thegma.org.uk/learning/training>. Any individual groundskeeper could also sign up to the Groundskeeping Community: <https://footballfoundation.hivelearning.com/join>

In addition to an independent test house, it is recommended that all grass football pitches are tested using PitchPower and pass a PQS assessment to a 'Good' standard for football as defined by the Grounds Management Association (GMA) Pitch Grading Framework before they are used.

It is still considered that their comments are still relevant, and it would be appreciated if they could please be passed onto the school.

The revised submission provides a general scope and maintenance specification for the school playing field with an indicative 12-month typical work maintenance programme, now with the inclusion of when line markings should be applied. The revised document now provides details as to how line markings should be applied to the playing field for outdoor sports. It also recommends that the maintenance is carried out by an experienced contractor who have undertaken specific training in the use of natural turf maintenance machinery. Additionally, a 'Designers Assessment of Residual Risk' section is now included. Sport England welcome the inclusion of these additional details.

Sport England raises no objection to condition 4 being discharged on the basis of implementation in line with the revised submitted details for a minimum of 5 years.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Carroll
Planning Manager