

North Lincolnshire Council
FAO: Emmanuel Hiamey

By email only

15/01/2025

Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Application Reference: PA/2024/1261

Site: Barrow Playing Field, Mill Lane, DN19 7BD

Proposal: Planning permission to place a twenty foot storage container

Sport England Reference: PA/24/Y/NL/69256

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above application.

Please see the letter dated 25/11/2024 with regards to Sport England's statutory role and policy, the proposal and impact on playing field, Sport England's previous assessment against Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and NPPF and position, together with a possible resolution.

Further Assessment

Sport England have only been given 7 days to respond the planning consultation and therefore, been unable to approach the relevant National Governing Bodies of Sport who require a minimum of 10 days. Sport England would kindly request that that the Local Planning Authority please provide 21 days for any future consultation.

That said, Sport England have reviewed the additional information that consists of an email correspondence from the Parish Council dated 7th January 2025 and an accompanying aerial image with a red line indicating a football pitch and a white line indicating a rugby pitch. This is not a scale plan and does not indicate the playing pitch layout (including safety run off areas) in relation to the proposed location of the container.

When reviewing the proposed block plan and aerial imagery it appears that the proposed container would be sited in an area where rugby union goalposts are currently/were previously located. Thus, the proposed location of the container

would adversely affect the playing field's capability and flexibility to accommodate a senior rugby union pitch.



2022 Google Aerial Image showing line marking for a rugby union pitch

The email from the Parish Council explains how the rugby union pitch shown in the above aerial image is now be used for football and that rugby union now takes place on the adjacent pitch to the west. The supporting letter also explains how the rugby union club already has a container on site and that the proposed container would be for a local football group.

Historic aerial images show that the concerned area of playing field has changed over the years from accommodating a senior football pitch to accommodating a senior rugby union pitch. Therefore, the proposed location of the container would likely adversely affect the playing field's capability and flexibility to accommodate different pitch sports, which may be required to meet future demand. Therefore, Sport England request that the proposed container is relocated to another area of the playing field that would not adversely affect its sporting capacity.

Sport England again also request that a site plan at a suitable scale is submitted that clearly shows all of the site's features (e.g. any existing containers) and its playing pitch layouts (i.e. line markings for rugby union and football pitches) with safety run off areas. The site plan should clearly show that the proposed container occupies a location that would not adversely affect the playing field's capability and flexibility to accommodate playing pitches.

Sport England's Position

Given the above assessment, Sport England **maintains its statutory objection** to the application because it is not considered to accord with any of the exceptions to our Playing Fields Policy or paragraph 104 of the NPPF.

Possible Resolution

Sport England request that the proposed container is relocated to another area of the playing field to accord with Policy Exception 2 of our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance.

As previously, explained it should be clearly demonstrated with the submission of site plans (to scale and showing all site features) that the proposed storage container would not adversely affect the playing field's quantity or quality of playing pitches (i.e. rugby union and football pitches including their safety run-off areas) or otherwise adversely affect their use.

The information required is detailed in [Annex B](#) of our Playing Field Policy Guidance and should be submitted as part of this planning application.

Determining the application

Should the local planning authority be minded to approve this application contrary to Sport England's statutory objection, then the Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2024 should be considered as to whether the application should be referred to the Secretary of State, via the National Planning Casework Unit.

If this application is to be presented to a Planning Committee, we would like to be notified in advance of the publication of any committee agendas, report(s) and committee date(s).

Please note that this response relates to Sport England's planning function only. It is not associated with our funding role or any grant application/award that may relate to the site.

Sport England would be pleased to comment on further details that address the above comments.

In providing any further information, Sport England would ask that the applicant submits this to the Local Planning Authority and not to Sport England directly. That way it forms part of the application submission and its associated audit trail. The Local Planning Authority can then consult Sport England on receipt of this

information. Sport England request that the Local Planning Authority send any additional information to Planning.Central@sportengland.org and not the Planning Manager directly.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Carroll

Planning Manager

Annex

The Five Exceptions to Sport England's Playing Fields Policy

Exception 1

A robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

Exception 2

The proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field, and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.

Exception 3

The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:

- reduce the size of any playing pitch;
 - result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);
 - reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;
 - result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site;
- or
- prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.

Exception 4

The area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:

- of equivalent or better quality, and
- of equivalent or greater quantity, and
- in a suitable location, and
- subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.

Exception 5

The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

The full 'Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document' is available to view at:
www.sportengland.org/playingfieldspolicy