

The Planning Inspectorate

By email

Date: 4th October 2024

Application Reference: S62A/2024/0057

Site: Former Friends School Field, Mount Pleasant Lane, Saffron Walden

Proposal: Erection of 91 no. dwellings with associated infrastructure and landscaping. Provision of playing field and associated clubhouse

Sport England Reference: PA/24/E/UT/68480

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the additional documents that have been submitted by the applicant in relation to the above application.

I have reviewed the applicant's letter dated 20th September 2024 which responds to the initial comments made by consultees including Sport England. I can advise that no comments are made in response to the majority of the applicant's comments as our position on the matters raised has already been set out in our original formal response dated 12th September 2024.

The applicant refers to ball strike being addressed by the plan (presumably the submitted 'Proposed Site Layout Plan') which shows the siting of potential netting identified by light blue dashes to the west of the football pitches. As the siting of the netting on the plan has not been informed by a specialist ball strike risk assessment, informed advice cannot be provided on whether the siting and length of the netting proposed is suitable for addressing ball strike. Furthermore, no details are available about what the height of the netting would be. As advised in our initial response, ball stop netting can be required to be up to 25 metres in height to effectively address ball strike. Therefore it is advised that the acceptability in principle of such netting should be considered at the planning application stage rather than through the discharge of a condition given the uncertainty about whether planning permission could be secured for such netting.

If you would like any further information or advice, please contact the undersigned

Yours sincerely,

Roy Warren
Planning Manager

