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CC: Richard Fordham <Richard.Fordham@sportengland.org>
Subject: App Ref: PA/337301/15 - Former WH Shaw Pallet Works (Saddleworth School) - Sport England Ref: NW/OD/2016/41783/N
Thread-Topic: App Ref: PA/337301/15 - Former WH Shaw Pallet Works (Saddleworth School) - Sport England Ref: NW/OD/2016/41783/N
Date: Mon, 13 Aug 2018 16:49:48 +0000

Dear Stephen

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the revised Flood Risk Association Addendum 2 submitted as part of the above planning application.

I note the following conclusion at Section 4 page 8:

"Given the degree of scrutiny applied to the impact of the sports pitch embankments and gabions and the associated proposed mitigation (lowering of levels in the field sports area)....."

I require more detailed information on the proposed mitigation and the impact on the sports field. I will need plans showing a comparison of the existing levels, previously proposed levels and proposed mitigation levels across the proposed playing field and a clear non technical description of the impact on the playing field of the change of levels. Looking at the plans supplied with the modelling it appears the only area affected will be the far west of the playing field where the jumping pits are proposed to be accommodated but it is not clear. If the proposed 3G Artificial Grass Pitch is in anyway affected by the proposed mitigation then this would be a significant issue to Sport England. Grass pitches are often located in flood risk areas and used as flood storage areas because of their ability to absorb and disperse water. However, Artificial Grass Pitches are a built facility that would be badly affected by flooding and are very expensive to restore and repair after flooding compared to natural turf pitches. In the event the playing field does flood the Artificial Grass Pitch would be required to help fulfil the PE curriculum whilst the affected area of the playing field is unusable. Although Sport England is aware there are no certainties when it comes to flooding but we do require assurance that every effort has been made to ensure the Artificial Grass Pitch does not form part of the proposed mitigation and that measures are in place to ensure it is extremely unlikely to flood.

I would be happy to discuss the requested information further with the applicant and/or the local planning authority if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

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