

Simpson Sports Ground

Creation of 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP)

Supporting Information for Planning Application

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| Client | Liverpool City Council | | |
| Project | Creation of a 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) | | |
| SSL project code | SSL1989 | | |
| Document title | Supporting Information for Planning Application | | |
| Document control | Revision | By | Date |
| | First Issue | WB | 13/04/16 |

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Surfacing Standards Ltd has been appointed to consider and develop supporting information for an application for full planning permission for the proposed developments at Simpson Sports Ground. The information submitted by SSL will solely be based upon the artificial turf pitch works and produced to assist Mouchel for an application for the overall development.
- 1.2 In order to assist the application for full planning permission and to facilitate the implementation and delivery of the project; this document describes the project aspirations and illustrates the process that has led to the development proposal, and to explain and justify the proposal in a structured way.
- 1.3 This statement discusses design and access issues regarding the use, amount, layout, scale, landscaping, appearance and context of the scheme. In addition, the wider access implications of the proposal are addressed.

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2. Design & Access Statement

3.1 Proposal Description

The proposed development will include the creation of three new external sports pitch with associated features including:

- 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP)
- Erection of perimeter ball-stop fencing
- Installation of hard standing areas around the AGP for pedestrians, maintenance and emergency access
- Installation of an artificial (flood) lighting system
- Installation of outdoor store for maintenance equipment

3.2 Site Description



3.3 Purpose and Use

The provision of the 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) will provide increased usage in comparison to the existing grassed football pitches, for benefit of Simpson Sports Ground and its partner organisations to gain the maximum football developmental outcomes; both during the day and during evenings and at weekends via pre-arranged and structured access.

The AGP will offer a variety of football pitches and training areas within the same enclosed playing space to support development plans into grassroots football and rugby.

The AGP will result in greater capacity utilisation across the playing season with greater training sessions and match play.

In accordance with The Football Association's (FA) current technical guidance, the aspiration is to introduce multiple pitch markings to gain the maximum football developmental outcomes and economic benefit from the site footprint.

The AGP's will be capable of supporting the following formal pitch arrangement:

| Age grouping | Type | Pitch size | Quantity |
|---|---------|------------|----------|
| Over 18 and Adult Football | 11v11 | 100 x 64m | 3 |
| Youth U11 / U12* | 9v9 | 64 x 46m | 6 |
| Mini Soccer U9 / U10** | 7v7 | 55 x 37m | 6 |
| Mini Soccer U7 / U8* ** | 5v5 | 37 x 27m | 12 |
| Training Areas** | Various | 48 x 30m | 12 |
| *Smaller than recommended size, but acceptable for match play use | | | |
| **the variety of over markings will be agreed in due course, to be considered against the football development plan | | | |

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3.4 Amount

The proposed development has been prepared in accordance with published Design Guidance Notes (The Football Association (FA) / RFU / Sport England) pertinent to external artificial sports facility provision.

The 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) design is in accordance with The FA Guide to 3G Football Turf Pitch Design Principles and Layouts. The proposed amount of development shall be:

3G artificial turf pitch area = 22,260sqm

Macadam goal storage area and hard standing pathways and mowing margins = 2,392sqm

Total ATP and associated feature development footprint = 24,652sqm

3.5 Scale

The proposed height of new open steel mesh ball stop fencing and entrance gates around the entire pitch perimeter enclosing the 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (AGP) will be 4.5m above ground level.

The proposed height of new open steel mesh pitch perimeter barrier and entrance gates immediately surrounding the 3G artificial grass playing surface internally within the fenced enclosure will range from 1.20m to 2m above ground level.

The proposed floodlight system comprises sixteen (16no.) masts mounted with associated luminaires at heights of 15m high above ground level to the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP).

The proposed maintenance equipment storage container will be 2.59m above ground level.

3.6 Landscaping

Any soft ground surrounding the area affected by the development shall be reinstated to grass (soft landscaping) to enable effective grounds maintenance to surrounding grassed areas and retention of grassed playing pitches.

Soil shall be reinstated to grass (soft landscaping) in accordance with BS 4428 Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations.

New hard landscaping treatment around the facility is restricted to porous asphalt surfacing for pedestrian access, goals storage, spectator viewing space and vehicular access for maintenance.

The excavated topsoil shall be formed as bunds and mounded to areas around the boundaries of the site. This will assist in visually screening the site as much as possible and retaining a more natural aesthetic look to the playing field from the surrounding areas with particular influence to the wildlife reserve to the west. The bund will also assist in reducing the spillage of the lighting to the west so that all spillage above 5lux shall be retained within the existing site boundary. Along with this then the bund assists in mitigating and reducing any potential noise to the wildlife reserve and surrounding areas.

3.7 Appearance

The intention is develop the pitch with minimal visual impact when viewed from any adjacent properties looking into the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP), which is necessary to satisfy local policies which seek to ensure that proposals are sympathetic to its surroundings and will not impact on the visual amenity of the area and the amenity of neighbouring residents.

The proposed finished appearance of principal pitch features is as follows:

3G Artificial Grass Playing Surface

The installed appearance of the playing surface will comprise a 3G artificial turf containing a 60mm pile and partially in-filled with silica sand (for stability) and granulate rubber (for performance).

This is consistent with current Football Association (FA) technical requirements to deliver adequate performance characteristics for the intended sports.

This surface type is recognised as the most suitable artificial playing surface for community football and youth football development.

This surface type is credited as 'preferred football surface' and 'surface for high level competition / training' within Sport England's guidance document 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' Issue 002 / December 2010.

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Perimeter Ball-Stop Fencing

The proposed type and quality of ball-stop fencing is consistent with current Football Association (FA) technical requirements for fencing to enclose artificial grass sports pitches.

The installed appearance of perimeter ball-stop fencing (4.5m high) will be finished to polyester powder coated RAL6005 Dark Green, all supported with an intermediate post system and entrance gates of matching colour.

The fencing type will be steel open mesh fencing containing a general 200x50mm aperture (and 66x50mm rebound aperture to the internal pitch perimeter barrier). Fence panels are insulated from the posts using neoprene washers to be fitted to every fence post / mesh fixing point to aid noise reduction and acoustic attenuation by reducing rattle and vibration from ball impacts.

Panels are fixed onto posts with 8mm galvanised security bolts to (U shape) brackets containing threaded inserts and neoprene washers (inserts) to reduce panel rattle and vibration from ball impacts. Panel connectors are applied at horizontal panel joins to increase the overall rigidity of the product.

Hard Standing Areas

The installed appearance of hard standing areas (clean access for pedestrians and spectators as well as vehicular access for maintenance, goals storage) will be grey / black coloured porous asphalt.

Floodlights

The installed appearance of the new artificial lighting system will include fourteen (16no.) 15m high sectional octagonal mid-hinge steel masts with galvanised finish (brushed silver) mounted with sixteen (48no.) luminaires c/w 2kW lamps and fittings finished raw aluminium.

Maintenance Equipment Storage Container

The installed appearance of the new storage containers includes high tensile rust inhibiting corten steel, finished dark green with polyester powder coating and with steel ramps for easy equipment access and egress.

3.8 Inclusive Access

Disabled access has been carefully considered throughout the whole design and applied wherever possible. The intention is to provide a smooth transition to and from areas within the sports ground, for use by people of all ages and abilities.

The site is compatible currently for disability parking and access with appropriate circulation routes.

All new pedestrian paths shall be compliant with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) regulations and Sport England's Technical Design Guidance Note 'Accessible Sports Facilities 2010'.

The proposed pitch playing surface to the shall replicate the qualities of fine sports turf.

3.9 Surface Water Drainage Strategy

The surface of the artificial turf pitches shall be permeable with the underlying stone sub base acting as an attenuation/storage area for surface water. The stone base will act as a soakaway system with surface water dissipating through the underlying formation level. This is combined with a perforated drainage system underneath the pitch base that connects into the existing surface water drainage system. As the project progresses then drainage calculations shall be produced to ascertain the optimum drainage design to meet the necessary stipulated requirements.

Detail of the new perforated perimeter and lateral drains underneath the pitch that shall collect and direct percolating rainfall away from the pitch area and into the existing surface water drainage system:

- 160mm diameter perforated UPVC perimeter drainage pipes laid within gravel-filled trenches connected together with proprietary, purpose made junctions. All trenches are to be constructed with gradients that are no shallower than 1:150.
- 80mm diameter perforated UPVC drainage lateral pipes laid within gravel-filled trenches connected to perimeter pipes with proprietary, purpose made junctions.
- 225mm diameter rigid twin-walled UPVC outfall drain connecting from a new silt trap/inspection chamber to connect into the existing surface water system.

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3. Planning Statement

3.1 Planning Policy

We understand that decisions must be taken in accordance with the development plan policies below, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

3.2 National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

Achieving Sustainable Development

7. There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

- *an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;*
- *a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and*
- *an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.*

Section 8 – Promoting Healthy Communities

73. Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.

74. Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- *an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- *the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- *the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.*

Section 11 – Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

123. Planning policies and decisions should aim to:

- *avoid noise from giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life as a result of new development;*
- *mitigate and reduce to a minimum other adverse impacts on health and quality of life arising from noise from new development, including through the use of conditions;*
- *recognise that development will often create some noise and existing businesses wanting to develop in continuance of their business should not have unreasonable restrictions put on them because of changes in nearby land uses since they were established; and*
- *identify and protect areas of tranquility which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.*

125. By encouraging good design, planning policies and decisions should limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.

In addition to satisfying the above listed policies, we consider the main material planning consideration relevant to the proposal is:

- *Principle of development*
- *Adequate impact mitigation to residential neighbours*

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3.3 Assessment of Planning Issues

We believe the proposal is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Liverpool City Council policies specifically in the following policy terms:

3.4 Achieving Sustainable Development

The National Planning Policy Framework introduced a presumption in favour of sustainable development and this can be set out as three dimensions – Economic Role, Social Role and Environmental Role.

This proposal aims to contribute to the above areas.

- Economic Role – providing a self-funding facility for use by Simpson Sports Ground and its partner organisations.
- Social Role – providing modern facilities that will encourage the maximum football developmental outcomes with the benefits to health and wellbeing associated with this.
- Environmental Role – ensuring that the existing natural environment is not harmed and that facilities are designed to conserve and reduce energy wastage wherever possible.

In a sporting context, this proposal seeks to:

- Provide opportunities for the local community and sports organisations to participate in sport and physical activity for health improvement and development of their skills, particularly amongst low participant groups;
- Operate in line with the national agenda for sport taking into account nationally adopted strategies;
- Generate positive attitudes in sport and physical activity by young people and reducing the dropout rate in sports participation with age;
- Increase the number of people of all ages and abilities participating in sport and physical activity including people with disabilities;
- Use the facilities to encourage the range, quality and number of sports club links and to stimulate competition that is inclusive of young people and adults;
- Provide affordable access to the facilities and to be self-financing in terms of community use;
- Satisfy competition play and training needs with a robust sustainable business plan;
- Monitor the delivery of the football development plan on a regular basis with a management committee will be established to develop and. The committee will review a variety of objectives and controls to ensure the facility is correctly managed, adequately operated and maintained as well as being safe and secure.
- Ensure on completion, the AGP is subjected to performance testing to validate necessary quality standards and subsequently added to the FA register of approved sites for match play.

Maintenance Considerations and Sustainability

Maintenance of the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will be managed by Simpson Sports Ground team (Liverpool City Council) on a daily and weekly basis with specialist contractors utilised as necessary to perform specialised reports and annual and biannual maintenance routines.

A sinking fund will be developed using the income from community hire in order to replace the artificial grass surface at the end of its working life, along with other necessary refurbishment works.

Sustainable usage and business plans are ready to ensure the facility is always maintained correctly and accrues a sinking fund for the eventual carpet replacement.

Energy and Waste Reduction

The proposed development will require the substantial removal and development of a proportion of the grassed playing field at Simpson Sports Ground; however, a variety of efficiencies will be applied to the construction stage to mitigate environmental impact and benefit the carbon footprint of the development.

Significant reduction in the use of energy and / or water, and reduce waste in the construction and operation of the facility will be achieved by:

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- Excavations limited to the removal of turf and topsoil only.
- Imported granular sub-base aggregates to form the pitch foundations shall be locally sourced from local quarries or suppliers to reduce transportation
- The implementation of the development does not require water supplies.
- Control gears for the floodlight system shall include photocell units and time clocks, to ensure artificial lighting does not illuminate before dusk and lighting does not exceed the permitted curfew hour.
- For the artificial grass playing surface, modern textile manufacturing methods and technology continues to advance. As such, it is common place for artificial turf surfaces to be recycled at the end of their life cycle and be re-made into new similar surfaces or other products. It can be expected that technologies will enable this environmental sustainability to be common place in the future, to the benefit of this proposal when refurbishment is due after an initial life cycle. This will beneficially affect the 3G playing surface (22,260 square metre area), silica sand infill (310tonnes) and granulate rubber infill (335 tonnes).
- With regards to the granulate rubber infill, this material is a recycled product produced from previous vehicle tyres.

In conclusion the proposed 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will replace existing grass pitch provision with:

- Better quality provision
- Provide access to greater quantity of provision
- In a suitable location
- Supported by effective and appropriate management arrangements
- Implemented with best practice construction techniques to minimise waste and pollution

3.5 Section 8 – Promoting Healthy Communities

This proposal satisfies the above planning objectives and is beneficial to the advancement of sports activity and development. It will deliver genuine beneficial outcomes as follows:

- Implement social, recreational and cultural facilities and services for community needs to enhance the sustainability of Simpson Sports Ground and the surrounding area.
- Provide access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- Compensate the loss of part of a usable playing field resulting from the proposed development by an equivalent, better provision by more robust and durable 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP), whilst retaining adequate playing pitches onto the remaining playing field to satisfy the summer and winter demand.

The proposed development will provide a clean, safe and modern facility to inspire sporting participation and will enhance the existing sport and recreation provision at Simpson Sports Ground.

It will provide a genuine asset for the applicant and local community sporting groups and organisations.

It will encourage and inspire more people of all ages to participate in sport.

For these reasons, we believe the following objectives have been satisfied:

- Supporting and enhance the continued regeneration at Simpson Sports Ground.
- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Promoting more sustainable development.

3.6 Section 11 – Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Noise Impact

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The nearest residential properties to the proposed 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) is situated on Hillfoot Road, with the closest house located approximately 255m from the AGP's (to the property / garden boundary).

This relationship is already established to existing playing pitches.

Despite this, it is acknowledged that the application proposal would result in extended times of use of the external sports facilities; particularly in the darker months of the year.

During the preparation of this proposal, an environmental noise assessment was undertaken to identify expected noise levels to be generated by use AGP and the effect to be experienced at nearby noise sensitive receptors and can be found within the overall application submission.

Noise emission is adequately controlled at the nearby residential properties and is not expected to adversely affect nearby residents by way of noise.

Artificial (Flood) Lighting Impact

The proposal incorporates an artificial (flood) lighting system to provide an optimum sports lighting solution, ensuring that light reaches the sports surface and not into the sky or polluting the environment.

Performance of the proposed artificial lighting (floodlighting) system has been design to and complies with an Environmental Zone E2 (ILP) which is a rural surrounding with low district brightness, for example a village or relatively dark outer suburban locations.

As illustrated within supporting application information, there would be some light spillage beyond the perimeter of the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP), however this overspill is controlled within the tolerances of ILP Environmental Zone E2 and is predominantly contained within Simpson Sports Ground.

This assessment concludes that:

1. The proposed floodlighting system is specifically designed to fulfil sports lighting requirements and is particularly suited to applications where low light pollution is essential.
2. Performance of the proposed artificial lighting (floodlighting) systems satisfies the intended sporting applications and standards of play.
3. A 15m high mounting height to the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) provides the most efficient solution and the proposed masts will offer a slim-line profile, which will minimise daytime impact.
4. The proposed Philips OptiVision MVP507 is an asymmetric down lighting luminaire will provide the optimum sports lighting solution, ensuring that light reaches the sports surface and not into the sky or polluting the environment.
5. Performance of the proposed artificial lighting (floodlighting) system complies with an Environmental Zone E2 (ILP) which is rural surrounding with low district brightness.
6. Light intrusion to the closest residential properties are below the threshold for an E2 environmental zone and as such, does not create an unacceptable impact by way of artificial lighting.
7. Luminaire intensity created whilst floodlights are in operation is below the threshold for the environmental zone E2 location and as such; does not create an unacceptable impact by way of artificial lighting.
8. Upward waste light will also be minimised and with floodlight elevations used 0% will be projected into the atmosphere. This will meet the recommendations of The Campaign For Dark Skies, an organisation who lobby for low light pollution lighting systems
9. Control switches and time clocks shall be installed to the floodlights to ensure they do not remain on any later than the permitted curfew hour and therefore mitigate impact to the surrounding environment.
10. Time clocks will be set to operate within a pre-programmed time including a seasonal changeover facility for BST and GMT to ensure floodlights are extinguished at the correct curfew hour.

The lighting scheme has been designed to minimise the impacts on surrounding areas outside of the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP), and given the location of the application site within an suburban area subject to lighting from streetlights, we do not consider that the proposed lighting would result an unacceptable impact by way of artificial lighting on residential amenity.

Please refer to the appended document SSL1989_Simpson Ground_Appendix G Lighting Assessment for full details.

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Residential Amenity

At present, sport may be played on the existing playing field throughout the year. It must therefore be noted that a certain level of impact already results to neighbouring residents through noise and general disturbance.

During winter months especially, this proposal would represent intensification in the usage of the site by way of an artificial (flood) lighting system, and noise and disturbance felt by surrounding residents would be experienced up to the curfew hour.

It is important to understand that the proposed hours of use have been carefully considered with times limited to those needed by Simpson Sports Ground and its partner organisations and community groups to adequately satisfy the demand for football development; both during the day and during evenings and at weekends via pre-arranged and structured community access.

Visual Amenity – 3G Artificial Grass Playing Surface

The new 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will be surfaced with 3G artificial grass coloured dark green. The visual appearance will be similar to existing fine sports turf and in keeping with a playing field environment.

Visual Amenity – Floodlight Masts

The proposals incorporate the provision of fourteen (16no.) 15m high floodlight masts mounted with associated luminaires around the perimeter of the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP).

The masts would be of a relatively slim profile tubular steel masts with galvanised (brushed silver) finish.

These are new structures that would be visible from nearby residential properties and public areas.

Although these new masts will be visible they are not a feature uncommon in a suburban area (similar to street lights) in which the application site is located.

It is accepted that whilst the height of the columns would result in features which are prominent within the site itself, they vital to provide artificial lighting for the planned use of the facility after dusk.

Visual Amenity – Ball Stop Fencing

The proposals incorporate perimeter fencing, which is necessary around the 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) to ensure the adequate long term protection of the valuable assets for a variety of vital reasons as follows:

- To contain balls within the pitch during training, competition and recreational activities
- To protect the playing surface from contamination that will severely compromise the longevity of the artificial grass playing surfaces
- To help prevent unauthorised use and vandalism

The height of perimeter fencing is 4.5m comprising intended to provide protection and to prevent any ball escaping the playing areas.

In terms of the visual impact of high level fencing, the elevation will consist of a weld mesh design comprising see-through mesh, coloured dark green. This type is commonly installed around artificial sports pitches and permits light and views throughout, reducing the visual impact of the fencing.

Whilst the proposed fencing would introduce a new feature in this area of the wider playing field, given the distances with residential properties; the type of ball stop fencing proposed would not give rise to unacceptable visual impacts to warrant refusal of the application.

We consider the proposals will not create any excessive levels of overbearing or overshadowing impact and fence heights are appropriate for the intended activities and would not appear incongruous within the playing fields surroundings.

Visual Amenity – Size and Scale

The proposed 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) accords with The Football Association's technical guidelines and the facility size is limited to spatial requirements necessary to implement one multi functional artificial grass football pitch with a variety of secondary pitch markings to support youth and mini soccer and training areas, all within the same enclosed playing space.

On this basis, we consider the proposal is complimentary to the built features within Simpson Sports Ground environment and will not compromise with the views from any onlookers, looking into the school campus.

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3.7 Strategic Context

The Football Association's National Game Strategy 2011 - 2015: Developing Football for Everyone

This strategy has four clear goals:

- To grow and retain participation
- To raise standards and address abusive behaviour
- To develop better players
- To run the game effectively

Supporting the four goals are two key areas of focus:

- A skilled workforce
- Improved facilities

This project is supported by a well thought out and strategic football development plan that will provide a wide range of coaching and participation opportunities for people of all ages and abilities at Simpson Sports Ground and the surrounding areas.

With Jericho Lane Playing Fields as the key community football delivery partner, this project will support the area to deliver the football development plan which is focused on all four of the key areas identified by the national game strategy.

The Football Association's Facilities Strategy 2013 - 2015

The National Facilities Strategy 2013/15 outlines plans for £150m of investment over the next three years, including improving 3,000 grass pitches, building 100 new artificial pitches and refurbishing 150 existing artificial pitches. The strategy was developed after FA research found that "poor facilities" was the most pressing issue facing the grassroots game, with 84% of respondents raising the concern.

The FA's 2011 Big Grassroots Football Survey found that regular participants want improved pitches (both grass and artificial), floodlighting, changing facilities and toilets, for both playing and training with their clubs.

The strategy aims to ensure all partners work together to improve football facilities and protect them for future generations and over the next three years aims to deliver in excess of £150m (through Football Foundation) into facility improvements across the National Game in line with identified priorities:

- Natural grass pitches improved – target: 3000
- **A network of new Artificial Grass Pitches built – target: 100**
- A network of refurbished Artificial Grass Pitches – target: 150
- On selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets
- Continue a small grants programs designed to address modest facility needs of clubs
- Ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts

This project is an excellent example of where a new 3G can deliver facilities in an area of strong local need, directly in line with the strategy.

3.8 Principle of Development

The application site is presently and predominantly a grass playing field situated at Simpson Sports Ground.

This proposal seeks to replace part of the sites existing grassed playing field with a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and associated perimeter ball-stop fencing, hard standing areas for pedestrians, maintenance and emergency access and an artificial (flood) lighting system.

It is intended that the resultant facilities would not only be used by the current users of Simpson Sports Ground, but also by partner organisations and community groups from the surrounding area to gain the maximum football developmental outcomes; both during the day and during evenings and at weekends via pre-arranged and structured community access.

The development of an AGP following The Football Association's technical guidelines will especially enable children and young adults to play on appropriately sized pitches with appropriately sized goals, encouraging greater touches of the ball and an increased involvement in the game to enable skill development. The intention is that young players will develop better technical and decision-making skills from a younger age. The nature and layout of the facility will fully accommodate over 18 and adult football, under 11/12's (based on a 9v9 format), under 9/10's (based on a 7v7 format) and under 7/8's (based on a 5v5 format) as well as several training areas within the pitch footprint.

This proposal would meet with the aims of national and local policies and would provide much needed improved sports facility at Simpson Sports Ground.

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Whilst the proposal would not provide new space, it would provide an enhanced facility which would enable sport to be played throughout the year whereas at present the grass playing field can only be used during periods of good weather.

On the basis of the above, we consider that the proposal would give rise to a considerable benefit to the wider community through the provision of an enhanced playing facility and we request this proposal is accepted subject to an agreement that adequate grassed playing pitches may be retained post development and that the proposals provide satisfactory benefit to the loss of playing pitches.

Sport England will be a statutory consultee on this planning application as the proposal affects a playing field.

The following details are provided to enable Sport England's informed assessment of whether the proposed benefits to sport associated with development would be sufficient to outweigh the detriment associated with the impact on the playing field and satisfy exception policy E5 of Sport England's playing fields policy 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England 1997'.

This policy statement defines in planning terms what is considered a 'playing field', which is; the whole of a site that encompasses at least one playing pitch. A playing pitch is a delineated area, which together with any run off is of 0.2 hectares or more.

The aim of the policy is to ensure that there is an adequate supply of quality pitches to satisfy the current and estimated future demands of the pitch sports.

The following details are provided to enable an assessment:

| Requirement | Detail provided |
|--|---|
| Impact the proposed development would have on playing pitch provision including proposed summer / winter playing pitches | <p>It is acknowledged that the removal of an existing usable playing field to enable the development of the proposed 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) is unavoidable.</p> <p>Simpson Sports Ground is of particular importance to the development of sport in the local area.</p> <p>Whilst other orientations within the playing field have been considered, the preferred location will result in convenient player and pedestrian access as well as effective management and withdraw the proposed 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) the furthest possible distance from residential neighbours.</p> |
| Existing community use of the playing field | Stipulated within other areas of the overall planning application. |
| Community use of the proposed sports facility | <p>Any existing users of the playing field still be adequately accommodated within the site and the AGP will support FA affiliated junior / youth football (highest level of competition), along with mid-week training and coaching activities.</p> <p>The proposed facility is supported by existing and potential future users and several community football clubs have been identified as partner community users of the proposed facility including:</p> <p><i>Stipulated within other areas of the overall planning application.</i></p> <p>It is anticipated the new AGP's will be used up to 85 hours per week.</p> <p>The impact on the existing playing field land will increase the quantity of playing pitches on site, as the AGP will be able to accommodate multiple junior and mini soccer pitches within the same enclosed playing space.</p> |
| Community access formally secured through a community use agreement | Community use agreements with key partners will be established and managed on a formal basis to facilitate delivery of the Football / Rugby Development Plan. |

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| | <p>The provision of the new external 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will provide increased usage in comparison to the existing grassed pitch during the daytime and evenings.</p> <p>This extended use is possible because the proposed floodlit 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) is more resilient during winter weather conditions and with new floodlights, evening activities will enable the facility to be used to its full potential.</p> <p>The AGP also avoids close season maintenance works.</p> |
| <p>Sport related benefits of the proposed artificial grass pitch for the applicant and the community</p> <p>This explanation should provide detail on the deficiencies of the existing facilities and set out how the new facilities will address such deficiencies and help with the delivery of sport and meet community facility needs.</p> <p>Furthermore, the explanation should provide details regarding which sports the new artificial grass pitch will accommodate.</p> | <p>The area has limited access to state of the art 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (3G AGPs) and this proposal will contribute to satisfying high demand for training and competition football.</p> <p>This site has been strategically identified by The Football Association and Liverpool Football Association.</p> <p>The Football Association has prioritised this development and has identified a need for improvement in football facilities within the surrounding areas to help deliver national strategies for grassroots football.</p> <p>The proposed 3G AGP will accord with Sport England's and The Football Association's technical design guidance for 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (3G AGPs).</p> <p>The proposed facility does allow for adequate storage of goals and maintenance equipment, changing provision and access to allow for community use.</p> |
| <p>Explanation of which sports the new artificial turf pitch will accommodate</p> | <p>With football being the targeted sport, the appropriate surface choice is 3G artificial turf containing a 60mm pile (this being regarded by The Football Association as the most suitable artificial playing surface for community football and youth development).</p> <p>Sport England guidance** describes this as a 'preferred football surface' and capable of high level competition / training (national/international).</p> <p>**Sport England's guidance document 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' Issue 002 / December 2010.</p> <p>Other sports that may be accommodated on the pitch include rugby handling skills / non-contact training and practical PE sessions for local schools or other training initiatives.</p> |
| <p>Proposed surface type</p> | <p>3G artificial turf containing a 60mm pile.</p> |
| <p>Accurate site plans (to scale) showing the existing and (if applicable) proposed winter and summer playing pitch layouts on the playing field.</p> <p>This information is required in order to make an informed assessment of what impact the proposed development would have on playing pitch provision.</p> | <p>Please refer to the overall site plans and drawings that illustrate the proposed playing field arrangements for winter and summer uses.</p> |
| <p>Sustainability</p> | <p>Arrangements to ensure the long term maintenance of the facility will be established, along with a necessary sinking fund to ensure the long term benefit of the facility and the appropriate replacement of the artificial surface, floodlights and pitch furniture at the end of life cycles,</p> |

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Given the above details, we hope Sport England will agree that the proposed development is acceptable under the following exception policy:

E5 – The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

In terms of design standards, the schedule of works necessary to implement the proposal are designed in accordance with, and must be constructed in full compliance with; the following sources of appropriate technical guidance and performance quality standards:

3G Artificial Grass Pitches (3G AGPs)

- The Football Association (FA) Guide to 3G Football Turf Pitch Design Principles and Layouts.
- Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Quality Concept for Football Turf – Handbook of Requirements (October 2015) – FIFA Quality certification required or equivalent IATS standard.
- Sport England Design Guidance Note 'Artificial Surfaces for Outdoor Sport – updated guidance for 2012.
- Sport England's guidance document 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' Issue 002 / December 2010.

Ball Stop Fencing

- BS EN 15312:2007 A1:2 Free access multi-sports equipment – Requirements, including:
- Clause 5.5.1.2.1 Resistance to repeated impact of footballs
- Clause 5.5.1.2.2 Very intense forceful impact resistance to player's kicks

Goals

- BS 8462:2005+A2:2012 Goals for youth football, futsal, mini-soccer and small-sided football.
- BS 8461:2005+A1:2009 Football goals. Code of practice for their procurement, installation, maintenance, storage and inspection.
- BS EN 748:2004 Playing field equipment. Football goals. Functional and safety requirements, test methods.

Floodlights

- The Football Association (FA) Guide to Football Turf Pitch Design Principles and Layouts (FIFA's Class II for Non – Televised events (4))
- BS EN 12193:2007 Light and lighting. Sports lighting
- The Institution of Lighting Professionals (ILP): Guidance Notes for The Reduction of Obtrusive Light GN01:2011

Pathways

- Sport England Design guidance Note – Accessible Sports Facilities – Issue 003 / April 2010

Generally

- Works must comply with current Building Regulations and British / European Standards applicable to the proposal

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3.9 Conclusions

In view of the above justification and having been assessed in the light of relevant planning policies and material considerations, we request this proposal is accepted.

In conclusion:

The proposed 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will replace existing grass pitch provision with better quality provision, thereby providing access to greater quantity of provision in a suitable location and supported by effective and appropriate management arrangements; whilst implementing best practice construction techniques to minimise waste and pollution; in accordance with Achieving Sustainable Development of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

The proposal would give rise to a considerable benefit to the wider community through the provision of an enhanced playing facility and the opportunity for usage throughout the year, in accordance with Section 8 – Promoting Healthy Communities of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

The proposal would ensure that noise emission created by use of the development is adequately controlled at the nearby residential properties and is not expected to adversely affect nearby residents by way of noise, in accordance with Section 11 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

The proposal would ensure that performance of the proposed artificial lighting (floodlighting) system complies with an Environmental Zone E2 (ILP) which is rural surrounding with low district brightness, for example a small town centre or suburban location, in accordance with Section 11 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012).

The proposal satisfies Sport England's E5 – The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

The 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and associated facilities would not result in an unacceptable impact upon the character, appearance or visual amenity of the surrounding area. The proposal will complement the immediate surroundings within the sports complex and will not appear inappropriate to any view looking into Simpson Sports Ground.

The proposal would not result in an unacceptable impact to any residential amenity.

End of document

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Published by | Wesley Bugg, Consultant |
| Signature | <i>W. Bugg</i> |
| Issued | 13/04/16 |

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