

**From:** Stuart Morgans <[Stuart.Morgans@sportengland.org](mailto:Stuart.Morgans@sportengland.org)>

**Sent:** 26 May 2023 14:45

**To:** Morris, Amber <[Amber.Morris@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amber.Morris@herefordshire.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** RE: FAO Amber Morris : P222572/F - Sport England Response : Queen Elizabeth High School, HR7 4QS - proposed small sided 3G AGP to replace existing tennis/netball courts

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Dear Amber,

Many thanks for Re-consulting Sport England on this application.

Further to our original response (see below), raising our objection to this application, and to our subsequent comments of 8th March 2023, we have now re-assessed the application in light of the amended plans and information provided in the latest re-consultation.

The amendments made to re-position the proposed 3G pitch so as to avoid there being an impact on the grass pitches to the south are noted. Our previous objection on this point has now been appropriately addressed.

We do still have concerns regarding the loss of the tennis/netball courts. The email from Oliver Pennington at SSL dated 13th April 2023 states that to mitigate the loss of courts, the applicant proposes to make the existing courts at St Peters Primary School, Bromyard and Bredenbury Primary School, Bredenbury available for community use. The email states that the courts are within the same Academy Trust's control and that there would be staff provision for use during weekday evenings and at weekends.

The courts that will be lost provide full size courts for tennis and netball. In comparison, the courts at the primary school are much smaller, reflecting their usage by primary school aged children. As such, they would not be considered to provide equitable mitigation for the loss. It is difficult to see how these smaller courts could be used for any adult netball/tennis activities given their reduced size and dimensions. In addition, whilst the courts at St Peters are relatively close by, the courts at Bredenbury School are not considered to be in a suitable location relative to the courts to be lost. There is no information provided to demonstrate how the use of these courts would be secured (which may require a suitable legal agreement to be an enforceable requirement). As such, Sport England does not consider this to be a suitable solution.

The applicant also states there is provision to mark tennis/netball on the basketball tarmac area to the east of the proposed development. No plans or further information have been provided for this so its difficult to comment further. There are two existing netball courts marked on the playground area and so we would not see this as replacement provision if the applicant is suggesting to re-mark these courts? If this relates to the redundant courts further to the east, we do note that these courts are not currently included as part of the blue line boundary. The inclusion of these redundant courts within the application with a proposed scheme of works to reinstate these courts would seem to be the most appropriate solution. We would seek clarification as to whether this can be agreed, if so this may then acceptably address our objection. We would wish to see a condition imposed that would secure the reinstatement of these courts prior to the first use of the AGP.

As such, we do not consider that we are able to remove our objection at this time. The applicant may be able to provide further information to respond to these comments, in which case please re-consult Sport England so that we can advise further.

Many thanks

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