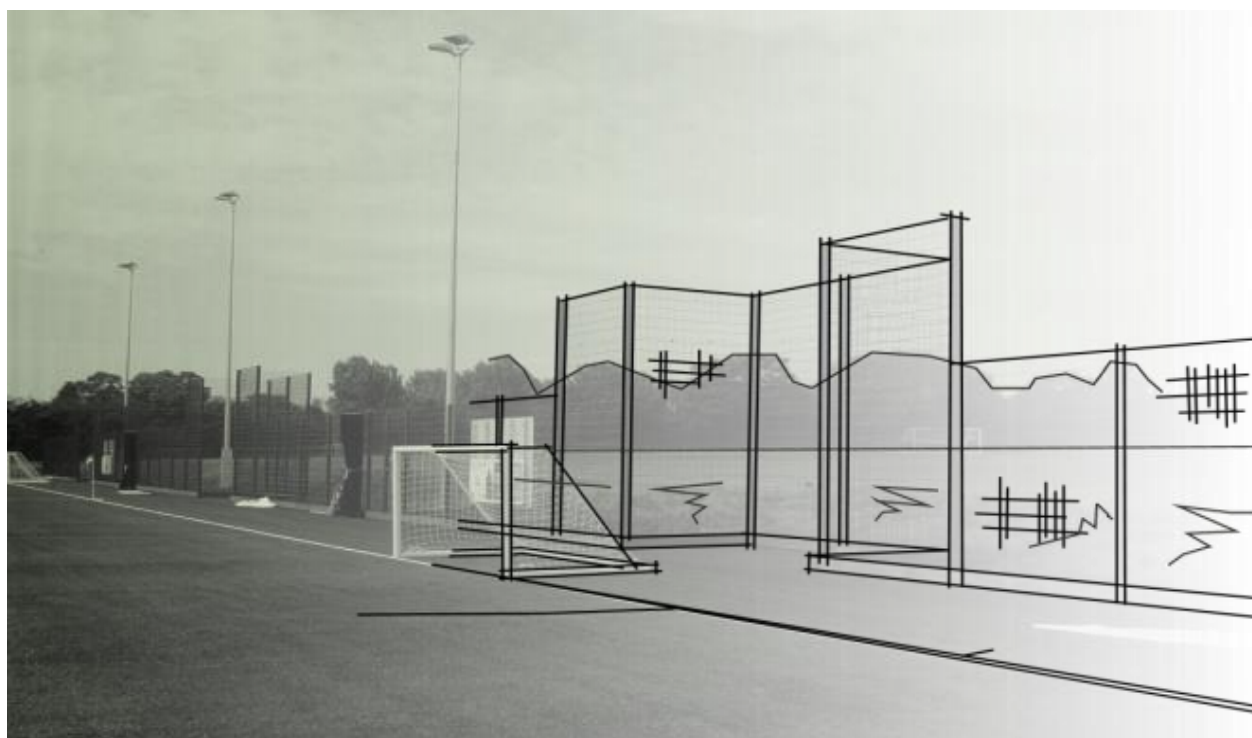


Jubilee Park

Creation of a 3G artificial pitch with perimeter fencing, floodlighting, hardstanding, storage container, car park and access improvements to the Lincombe Road access

Design and Access with Planning Statement



Client	Jubilee Park Dinas Lane Huyton Liverpool L36 2NW		
Project	Creation of a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) with perimeter fencing, floodlighting, hardstanding, storage container, car park and access improvements to the Lincombe Road access		
SSL project code	LANO-CLS036		
Document title	Design and Access with Planning Statement		
Document control	Revision	By	Date
	First Issue	ME	19/12/23

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Associated Documents

Drawings

LANO-CLS036 01 – Topographical Survey
LANO-CLS036 02 – Site Location Plan
LANO-CLS036 03 – Proposed Site Plan
LANO-CLS036 04 – Proposed AGP Plan
LANO-CLS036 05 – Proposed Elevation
LANO-CLS036 06 – Floodlighting Scheme
LANO-CLS036 07 – Proposed Drainage Layout
LANO-CLS036 08 – Proposed Drainage Scheme

Appendices

Appendix A – Floodlight Performance Report
Appendix B – LED Floodlight Data Sheet
Appendix C – ILP Guidance Notes
Appendix D – Sports Lighting Statement
Appendix E – Proposed Materials and Appearance
Appendix F – Drainage Strategy
Appendix G – Noise Impact Assessment
Appendix H – Noise Management Plan
Appendix I – Lincombe Road Site Access Plan
Appendix J – 1650-001 Tree Survey
Appendix K – 1650-002 Tree Constraints Plan
Appendix L – 1650-003 Tree Protection Plan
Appendix M – Preliminary Ecological Appraisal
Appendix N – CEMP

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1. Introduction

1.1. Application Description

The application is for the creation of a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) with perimeter fencing, floodlighting, hardstanding, storage container, car park and access improvements to the Lincombe Road access at:

Jubilee Park
 Dinas Lane
 Huyton
 Liverpool
 L36 2NW

1.2. Design and Access with Planning Statement Outline

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.

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.

A planning statement is also provided to adequately address development plan policies and material considerations associated with this proposal.

1.3. The Applicant

The applicant is:
 Michele Grey- Environment Manager at Knowsley Council

1.4. The Planning Agent

The planning agent is:

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2. Design and Access Statement Principles

2.1. Outline

Guidance on information requirements and validation, published Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 recommends that a design and access statement is a short report accompanying and supporting a planning application to illustrate the process that has led to the development proposal, and to explain the proposal in a structured way. The level of detail required in a design and access statement depends on the scale and complexity of the application, and the length of the statement varies accordingly. Statements must be proportionate to the complexity of the application, but need not be long. Further published recommendations are:

- Design and access statements help to ensure that development proposals are based on a thoughtful design process and a sustainable approach to access.
- Statements should improve the quality of proposals: in preparing the design and access statement, developers need to consider and subsequently explain the merit of the design and how it relates to the existing setting.
- Design and access statements enable local planning authorities to better understand the analysis which has underpinned the design and how it has led to the development of the scheme. This helps negotiations and decision-making and should lead to an improvement in the quality, sustainability and inclusiveness of the development.
- Design and access statements allow local communities, access groups, amenity groups and other stakeholders to involve themselves more directly in the planning process without needing to interpret plans that can be technical and confusing. This helps to increase certainty for people affected by development and improve trust between communities, developers and planners. It also enables the design rationale for the proposal to be more transparent to stakeholders and the Local planning authority.

2.2. What Is Required: The Design Component

The design and access statement should cover both the design principles and concepts that have been applied to the proposed development and how issues relating to access to the development have been dealt with. Statements should evolve throughout the design and development process.

A design and access statement for a planning application should explain the design principles and concepts that have been applied to particular aspects of the proposal. These are:

- Scale: Scale is the height, width and length of a building or buildings in relation to its surroundings.
- Amount: The amount of development is how much development is proposed. For residential development, this means the number of proposed units for residential use and for all other development, this means the proposed floor space for each proposed use.
- Layout: The layout is the way in which buildings, routes and open spaces (both private and public) are provided, placed and orientated in relation to each other and buildings and spaces surrounding the development.
- Landscaping: Landscaping is the treatment of private and public spaces to enhance or protect the amenities of the site and the area in which it is situated through hard and soft landscaping measures. Statements should also explain the function of the landscaping, for instance for sustainable drainage purposes, providing shading or other climate change adaptation purposes, and explain how it will be maintained.
- Appearance: Appearance is the aspect of a place or building that determines the visual impression it makes, including the external built form of the development, its architecture, materials, decoration, lighting, colour and texture.

2.3. What Is Required: The Access Component

It is important to note that the requirement for the access component of the statement relates only to 'access to the development' and therefore does not extend to internal aspects of individual buildings. Statements should explain how access arrangements will ensure that all users will have equal and convenient access to buildings and spaces and the public transport network. The statement should address the need for flexibility of the development and how it may adapt to changing needs.

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3. Design and Access Statement

Having followed planning policy recommendations and published technical guidance, we consider the proposal is based upon best design practices for external sports facility provision.

3.1. Proposal Description

Planning permission is sought to create a new external sports pitch development with associated features including:

- Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) pitch surface with 3G artificial grass to accommodate a football pitch sized 79m x 52m (including 3m run-offs) designed to accommodate a variety of youth football pitches and training areas.
- Macadam hardstanding viewing areas and goal storage areas.
- 4.5m high fencing to the perimeter of the facility, with a 1.2m high pitch perimeter barrier fencing to the artificial grass perimeter, to segregate the pitch playing area from surrounding macadam areas.
- 3.0m high acoustic fencing to the south and partially to the west perimeter of the facility.
- 6 x 10.0m high floodlighting columns.
- Maintenance / sports equipment store located within the fenced facility enclosure.
- 63 bay car parking with 2 minibus spaces and 1.0m high bollard floodlighting
- Access improvements to Lincombe Road

3.2. Site Description



The proposed pitch development lies within a predominantly grass surface parcel of land towards the western extent of the wider park site. There is a single basketball court and bowls green to the east. The main access to the park is from Lincombe Road. There are residential properties to the north, south and west of the proposed development with a medical centre also to the south. The wider park extends off to the east. Surface levels are relatively flat across the proposed pitch development and wider site.

3.3. Site History

The earliest available maps date back to the late-1800s and shows the wider site as an area of open land (assumed agricultural). A single plot and associated land are recorded beyond the southeastern boundary of the proposed pitch area. By the mid-1900s the site is recorded as Jubilee Park, a defined rectangular area (possible hardstanding sports court) is recorded within the area of the proposed pitch, a small building is also recorded to the north of the pitch. A large building (day nursery) is recorded within the northern central boundary of the wider Jubilee site.

Planning history

The following is recent planning history for the site:

19/00172/KMBC1

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INSTALLATION OF NEW ENTRANCE FEATURE WITH ASSOCIATED BOLLARD

Status Decided
Decision Granted
Decision Issued Date Thu 25 Jul 2019

14/00141/KMBC1

ERECTION OF 2 NO CONTAINERS ON NEW HARDSTANDING TOGETHER WITH NEW PATHWAY AND LANDSCAPING

Status Decided
Decision Granted
Decision Issued Date Fri 25 Jul 2014

09/00560/FUL

EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO JUBILEE PARK PAVILION BUILDING INCLUDING NEW WINDOWS, ENTRANCE DOOR AND ROLLER SHUTTERS TO THE WINDOWS AND DOORS

Status Decided
Decision Granted
Decision Issued Date Thu 31 Dec 2009

07/00857/KMBC1

INSTALLATION OF 2.4M HIGH STEEL FRAME AND TIMBER PANEL SECURITY FENCE TO PARK BOUNDARY ADJACENT TO REAR OF 155 & 157 DINAS LANE & TO THE SIDE BOUNDARY BETWEEN 157 DINAS LANE AND THE BOWLING GREEN

Status Decided
Decision Granted
Decision Issued Date Thu 08 Nov 2007

3.4. Purpose and Use

This application seeks planning permission to create a new external Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) in order to contribute to the improvement of sporting and recreational facilities at Jubilee Park.

The provision of a new AGP will provide increased usage in comparison to the existing grassed playing field, for benefit of local football clubs, partner organisations and other sports clubs in the surrounding area, via pre-arranged and structured access.

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

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 benefit from the site footprint.

The AGP will be capable of supporting the following formal pitch arrangements:

Table 1 – AGP Pitch Arrangements

Size and Age Grouping (Inlaid Lines)	Quantity
73m x 46m (U11/U12, 9v9) in white	1
55m x 37m (U9 / U10, 7v7) in yellow	1
36.84m x 22.28m* (U7 / U8, 5v5) in red	3
*smaller than recommended size, but acceptable for match play use	

- The intended programme of use is not detrimentally impacted (there is no loss of functionality, or displacement of any teams/groups as a result of the pitch being provided compared to the loss of the grassed fields.
- The footprint of the facility alleviates usage of the remaining public playing field, allowing more space for other formal and informal activity.
- The artificial pitch provides significantly increased capacity which supports the application in ensuring the benefits outweigh the loss.

3.5. Amount

The proposed development has been prepared in accordance with published Design Guidance Notes (The Football Association (FA) / Sport England) pertinent to external artificial sports facility provision. The Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) design is in accordance with The FA Guide to 3G Football Turf Pitch Design Principles and Layouts and the proposed amount of development is:

Table 2 – Development Aspects

Aspect	Area
3G artificial grass pitch area	4,108m ²
Porous Asphalt surfaced areas	416m ²
Proposed Car Parking	1,775m ²
Total Development Area	8,329m²

3.6. Layout

The optimum location for a proposed AGP was carefully considered. Key considerations included:

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- Maximising the available playing field to accommodate natural grass pitches
- Flood risk for the facility itself and ensuring the development does not increase the flood risk to other nearby areas
- Convenient proximity to changing facilities/welfare/site services
- Convenient proximity of vehicular parking areas
- Convenient proximity to transport routes

The proposed location will afford pedestrian, maintenance and emergency access as well and providing for suitable management, supervision and security. It was concluded the proposed location for the new 3G pitch provides the best solution for the above considerations.

3.7. Scale

The proposed height of new open steel mesh barrier fencing around the synthetic turf pitch perimeter will be 4.5m to the perimeter of the facility itself with a further 1.2m high fence within the perimeter separating the spectator area from the playing area.

The acoustic fencing to the south and west of the facility will be 3.0m high.

The proposed height of the floodlighting columns will be 10 metres from ground level.

The proposed height of the steel storage container will be 2.59 metres.

3.8. Landscaping

New hard landscaping treatment around the 3G facility is restricted to porous asphalt surfacing for the spectator viewing area and goal storage areas. New hard landscaping treatment around the facility is restricted to porous asphalt surfacing necessary to form the pedestrian access.

With the exception of hard landscaping, all other soft ground surrounding the area affected by the development shall be reinstated to grass to enable effective grounds maintenance to surrounding grassed areas and retention of grass playing pitches. The grass is to be reinstated (soft landscaping) in accordance with BS 4428 Code of Practice for General Landscape Operation.

3.9. Appearance

The intention is to develop the AGP with minimal visual impact when viewed looking into the site, 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.

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

3.9.1. 3G Artificial Grass Playing Surface

The installed appearance of the playing surface will comprise a 3G artificial turf containing a 50mm pile and partially in-filled with silica sand (for stability) and granulate rubber (for performance), coloured grass green.

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

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.

3.9.2. 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 a community artificial grass sports pitch.

The installed appearance of perimeter ball stop fencing be polyester powder coated RAL6005 Moss Green, all supported with an intermediate post system and entrance gates of matching colour.

The 1.2m high fencing type will be steel open mesh fencing containing a 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.

The 4.5m high fencing will be as above but a 200mm x 50mm sized mesh.

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Against the background of the site, black or dark (moss) green are the fence colours that provide the most discrete appearance.

3.9.3. Hard Standing Areas

The installed appearance of the hard standing areas (areas outside perimeter of the pitch and goal storage areas) will be grey / black coloured porous asphalt.

3.9.4. Maintenance Equipment Storage Container

The installed appearance of the new maintenance store will be steel, powder coated RAL 6005 moss green to match the perimeter fence.

3.9.5. Floodlights

The installed appearance of the new artificial lighting system will include six (6no.) slimline 10m high sectional hinged steel masts finished galvanised (Z275) self-coloured, mounted with slimline LED luminaires and fittings finished raw aluminium.

3.10. Access/ Transport Links

Paragraph 111 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023) sets out that:

Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.

This development should not be prejudicial to the satisfactory functioning of the highway and that additional traffic movements generated by the proposal should not result in unacceptable impacts on the highway network.

The application requests opening hours of:

Monday to Friday: 08:00 to 22:00 hours

Saturday & Sunday: 08:00 to 22:00 hours

The convenient location of the site will ensure the proposed 3G facility can easily be accessed and utilised by nearby communities. The site is within a sustainable location within the built up area Huyton near to Liverpool city centre. There are bus stops along Dinas Lane approximately 250 metres from the main entrance.

New trips would be generated following the introduction of the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP). This is resultant from an intensification of use made possible by the enhanced durability of the 3G artificial grass playing surface in comparison to the existing natural turf surface, especially during winter weather conditions. Currently the park doesn't have any dedicated parking provision. Given the increased use that is expected from the development on site parking spaces are proposed to ease the on street pressures to the surrounding roads. The numbers are set out below. Given the park will now accommodate a car park access improvements are also being proposed to the vehicular entrance at Lincombe Road to improve highway safety to the site.

The existing and proposed parking provision will consist of:

Table 3 – Site Car Parking and Availability

Type of Vehicle	Existing number of Spaces	Proposed number of spaces (inc retained)	Difference in spaces
Car	0	59	59
Light Goods Vehicles/ Public Carrier	0	0	0
Motorcycles	0	0	0
Disability Spaces	0	2	2
Cycle Spaces	0	12	12
Minibus	0	2	2
Electric Vehicle	0	2	2

With regards to the new facility and worst case scenario generation of vehicles along with general management and operational methods that are employed to assist traffic and congestion etc then please see the below information.

The below is data from TRICS for leisure football with approximate percentages of travel methods.

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Mode	%
Vehicle (Driver and Passenger)	80%
Cyclists	1%
Pedestrians	10%
Rail	0%
Coach	8%
Bus	1%
Total People	100%

The table below provides an estimate of the worst case scenario of maximum users for a standard football full sized football pitch:

Sport	Players	Subs	Coaches	Refs	Total	Pitches	Total times number of pitches	Spectators (0% adult football and 25% for youth football based on driving and supervising children)	TRICS data suggesting 80% transport method is by car with each car averaging 2no. passengers offering 40% to give total car generation
1no. 9v9 football	18	8	2	1	29	1	29	37	15
1no. 7v7 football	14	8	2	1	25	1	25	32	13
3no. 5v5 football	10	4	2	1	17	3	51	64	26

Clearly 3no. 5v5 pitches offers the worst-case scenario event.

The more common use for this structured layout is that the 3no. cross pitches shall be used for training in the evenings Monday to Friday or for recreational usage that does not have refs, subs or coaches.

The figures are based on persons and not the number of cars and on the very worst-case scenario that competitive matches are played with refs on each of the 3no. football pitches at one time.

For youth 5v5 football then it is more likely that 1no. parent shall take 2, 3 or 4 persons. A generic and common sum for the reduction of people to cars is at 50% that offers a large safety factor in place.

Based on the above parking numbers and the proposed addition of 63 parking spaces, 2 minibus spaces and 12 cycle spaces, it is understood that the proposal would have sufficient parking to accommodate the additional AGP users to site.

3.11. Construction Traffic

Subject to approval a construction logistics plan can be provided to ensure construction vehicles will not have a detrimental impact on the vicinity of the site including the provision of adequate parking for construction vehicles onsite and to prevent on-street conflict and impacts to the highway safety and to prevent pollution and the protection of residential amenity.

The proposed times of construction, demolition and site clearance operations shall be limited to the following hours:

- 07:00 to 18:00 Monday to Friday.
- 07:00 to 13:00 Saturday.
- No construction operations on Sundays or public holidays.

HGV movements and installation of equipment on site shall not be permitted outside these hours during the construction phase without prior written approval from the Local Planning Authority. The topsoil taken out to create the AGP will remain on site and will reduce construction programme and reduce construction traffic movements.

The proposed future use of the site will result in a negligible impact on the local highway network and local transport network and will not lead to car parking stress on local roads due to suitable on site provision of spaces. The proposal will therefore be compliant with paragraph 111 of the NPPF (2021).

3.12. 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 site, for use by people of all ages and abilities. The new hard standing areas proposed around the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) are all accessible for disabled persons.

All pedestrian paths and hardstanding shall be compliant with Equality Act 2010 regulations and Sport England's Technical Design Guidance Note 'Accessible Sports Facilities 2010'. The Equality Act 2010 replaced the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) in England, Scotland and Wales.

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4. Planning Statement

4.1. Planning Policy

National Policy

We understand that development management decisions must be taken in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as updated in Sept 2023.

Sections 4.4 to 4.8 refer to this development in the context of specific National Planning Policies.

Local Policy

The Knowsley Local Plan comprises several documents. The Core Strategy part of the Local Plan sets the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2028 and beyond.

Section 4.9 refers to this development in the context of specific Local Development Framework Policies.

4.2. Material Planning Considerations

We acknowledge the following material planning considerations relevant to the proposal include:

- Compliance with relevant national and local planning policies
- Principal of development 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 5 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance 2018.
- Design and impact upon the character and appearance of the surrounding area
- Adequate impact mitigation to residential neighbours
- Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) rationale and sport related benefits
- AGP management and maintenance programme
- Lighting / Floodlighting schemes including impact assessment
- Sustainable Drainage Assessment
- Protection of ecology and biodiversity
- Suitable parking facilities

4.3. Assessment of Planning Issues

We believe the proposal is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the policies. Sections 4.4 to 4.9 refer to specific policies and provide a discussion to outline how we believe this proposal satisfies these policies.

4.4. National Planning Policy Framework (Sept 2023) - Section 2 - Achieving Sustainable Development

Policy extract:

Paragraph 8: Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

*a) **an economic objective** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;*

*b) **a social objective** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and*

*c) **an environmental objective** – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.*

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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 the local community and local sports clubs.
- 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 Academy, 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.
- Contribute to The Football Association's strategic objectives for grassroots football development.
- Satisfy competition play and training needs with a robust sustainable business plan to monitor the delivery of the football development plan on a regular basis. The committee will review a variety of objectives and controls to correctly manage, adequately operate and maintain the facility.
- Ensure the AGP, once subjected to performance testing to validate necessary quality standards, is added to the FA register of approved sites for match play.

4.4.1. Maintenance/ Management Considerations and Sustainability

The proposed 3G pitch and pavilion will be managed by Huyton Jubilee Community Sports Hub CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) under a long term lease from Knowsley Council. The facilities will be supervised at all times by club volunteers and/or paid community staff. Users will be expected to comply with a Code of Conduct and facility usage rules. This will include not leaving litter at the site, refraining from using foul or abusive language, and using the designated parking provided without causing nuisance to neighbouring residences. The 3G Pitch rules include wearing appropriate footwear on the 3G pitch and complying with no smoking, no dogs (other than guide dogs) and no chewing gum policies. All users will sign up to the Code of Conduct and Facility Rules as set out in the Terms & Conditions Use on the Redbank Football Facility Booking Form

4.4.2. Energy and Waste Reduction

The proposed development will require the removal and redevelopment of a grassed area of playing field. 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:

- 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.
- For the artificial grass playing surface, modern textile manufacturing methods and technology continue to advance. As such, it is common place for artificial grass 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 form of recycling to be common place in the future, to the benefit of this proposal when refurbishment is due after an initial life cycle.

In conclusion the proposed Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will replace part of an existing grassed football pitch provision with:

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- 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

4.5. National Planning Policy Framework (Sept 2023) - Section 8 – Promoting Healthy and Safe Communities

Policy extract:

Paragraph 98: Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

Paragraph 99: Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- b) 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*
- c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.*

The planning system encourages and promotes the retention of existing and the provision of additional, outdoor sports facilities, both public and private.

Whilst it is acknowledged the proposed development would result in the loss of what is effectively a grassed playing field, it must be noted that the scheme would provide a purpose-built facility that would facilitate a far greater level of use for sport and recreation throughout the whole year.

In addition, when assessing the proposal, consideration must be given to the importance of the standard of design and compatibility of a scheme to harmonise with the general character of the area in which they are set, the impact upon the private amenity of the neighbouring occupiers and highway safety, amongst other material considerations.

The proposed development will implement better provision in terms of quality and quantity and in a suitable location to benefit the community and provide access and opportunities for sport and recreation, making an important contribution to the health and well-being of the local community.

The proposed location will afford convenient pedestrian and maintenance access as well as providing for suitable management, supervision and security by site based staff.

The close proximity of existing facilities described above will help to create a healthy and safe place of exercise.

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 the site and the local area.
- Provide access to a high quality open space and provide opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of the local community.
- Make beneficial usage of the current site resulting with better provision provided by a durable Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP).

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

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:

- Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion.
- Health and wellbeing.
- Promoting more sustainable development.

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4.6. National Planning Policy Framework (Sept 2023) - Section 12 – Achieving well designed places

Policy extract:

Paragraph 126: The creation of high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process.

Paragraph 134: In determining applications, great weight should be given to outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings.

4.6.1. Design Standards

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 technical guidance and performance quality standards which are appropriate to external artificial sports facilities:

4.6.2. Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP)

- 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).
- 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.

4.6.3. 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

4.6.4. Generally

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

4.6.5. Visual Amenity – 3G Artificial Grass Playing Surface

The new Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will be surfaced with 3G artificial grass coloured grass green. The visual appearance will be similar to existing fine sports turf and in keeping with a sports stadia environment. 3G synthetic turf is designed to look like natural turf, unlike the older type sand filled 'astroturf' type surfaces.



A typical example of 3G artificial surface

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4.6.6. Visual Amenity – Building level

The field topography will be adjusted to reduce and adjust longitudinal slopes and lateral profiles across the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) footprint to accord with technical recommendations. This is necessary to preserve unbiased ball roll characteristics, resulting in a diagonal axis containing an approximate 1:100 (1%) maximum slope.

4.6.7. Visual Amenity – Ball Stop Fencing

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

- To help 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 segregate the pitch playing area from spectators

In terms of the visual impact of the fencing, the elevation will consist of a weld mesh design comprising see-through mesh, coloured RAL 6005 moss green. This type is commonly installed around artificial sports pitches and permits light and views throughout, reducing the visual impact of the fencing.

The type of barrier fencing proposed to the edge of the synthetic turf would be a similar height to the current pitch perimeter barrier and would not give rise to unacceptable visual impacts to warrant refusal of the application.

Darker colours of fence finish, in particular black and dark green, are the most discrete colour options against a rural backdrop, which has been a factor in this proposal.

We consider the proposals will not create any excessive levels of overbearing or overshadowing impact and fence heights are appropriate for the intended activities.



Examples of perimeter ball stop fencing

4.6.8. Visual Amenity – Acoustic Fencing

The proposals incorporate 3.0m high acoustic fencing around the eastern perimeter of the proposed ball stop fencing, which is necessary to prevent an unacceptable level of noise to the neighbouring residential houses to the east.

Some example photos of acoustic fencing around other artificial pitches are included below

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Examples of perimeter acoustic fencing

4.6.9. Visual Amenity – Floodlight Masts

The proposals incorporate the provision of six (6no.) 10m high slimline floodlight masts mounted with associated luminaires around the perimeter of the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP).

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The masts would be of a slim profile tubular steel masts with galvanised (Z275) self-coloured finish.

A galvanised only finish of the columns has been selected as the preferred solution in terms of being more discreet against the background of the (often) grey UK skies.

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

With the floodlight columns being of a slimline design, it is not felt the columns will provide an unacceptable visual impact.



Examples of slimline LED floodlighting columns and masts



An example of a small sided AGP with 10m high floodlighting columns.

4.6.10. Visual Amenity – Maintenance Equipment Storage Container

The installed appearance of the new maintenance store will be steel, powder coated RAL 6005 moss green to match the perimeter fence.

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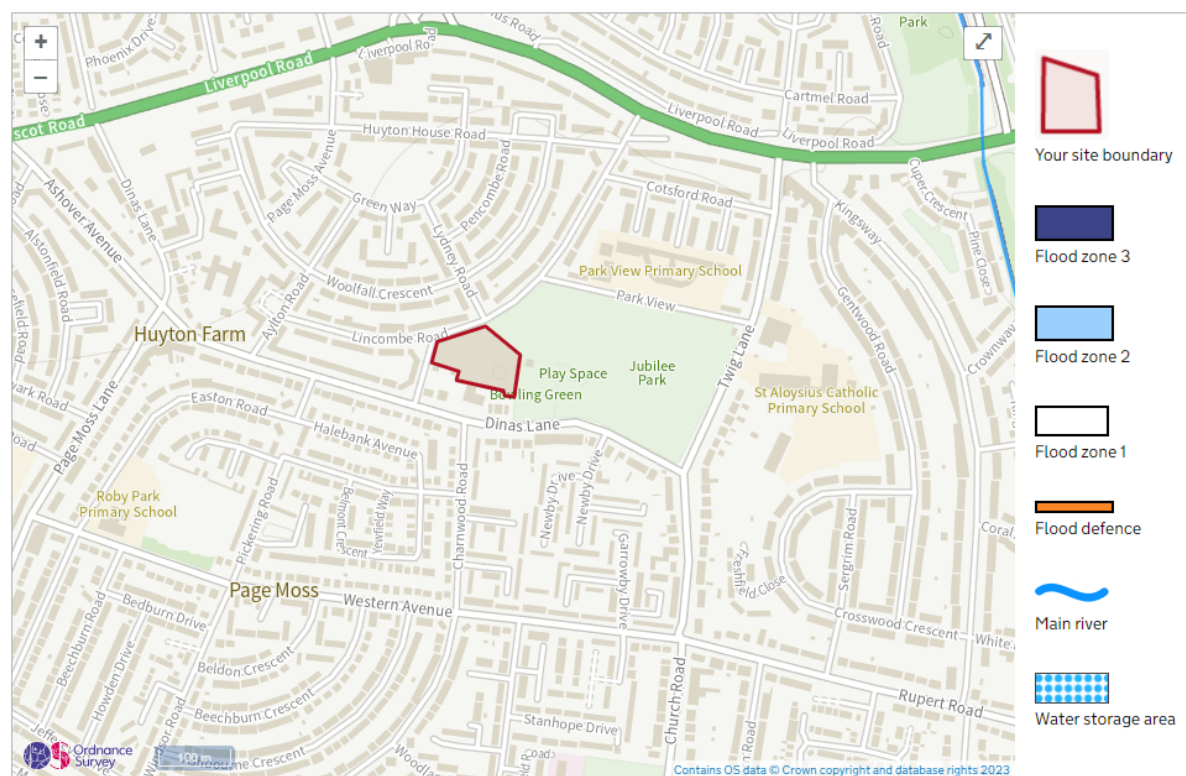
Example of storage container

4.7. National Planning Policy Framework (Sept 2023) - Section 14 – Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change

Policy extract:

Paragraph 167: When determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment. Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where, in the light of this assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that:

- a) within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk, unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location;
- b) the development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient;
- c) it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate;
- d) any residual risk can be safely managed; and
- e) safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an agreed emergency plan.



Flood Map for Planning.

According to the governments flood risk map for planning the site is located within flood zone 1, indicating a low risk from flooding and indicating that a Flood Risk Assessment is not required in this instance.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Sustainable Drainage Systems Non-statutory technical standards for sustainable

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drainage systems March 2015

The surface water drainage scheme must be in accordance with the Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (March 2015) or any subsequent replacement national standards and unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority, no surface water shall discharge to the public sewerage system either directly or indirectly.

4.8. National Planning Policy Framework (Sept 2023) - Section 15 – Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment

Policy extract:

Paragraph 185: Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:

- a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life60;*
- b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason;*
- c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.*

4.8.1. Noise Impact

It is acknowledged that the application proposal would result in a greater intensity of use of this particular area of the site. This intensification of use is made possible by the enhanced durability of 3G artificial grass playing surface in comparison to the current natural turf surface.

The proposed hours of operation for the new Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) are as follows:

Monday to Friday	08:00 hours to 22:00 hours
Saturday & Sunday	08:00 hours to 22:00 hours

Amenity lighting only shall be provided for a 15 minute period following the 22.00 hours switch-off time. The lighting shall be dimmed to a maximum level of 10% to allow people to leave safely at 22:00 then automatically switched off completely at 22:15.

There are residential properties to the surrounds of the AGP. Therefore, a noise impact assessment has been undertaken. The assessment includes the prediction of noise emission from the AGP at the nearby noise-sensitive properties, based on noise level data from activities measured at existing AGPs and by generating a noise model. To meet the guidelines set out by the World Health Organisation for levels of "moderate community annoyance" set at 50db, a noise barrier to the south and partially to the west of the AGP of 3.0m in height is required. The barrier is to be solid and have a surface density of at least 10 kg per square meter.

Additional measures to be implemented as part of the proposed development to reduce the noise impact:

- Neoprene washers (inserts) will be fitted to fence panel fixings to reduce panel rattle and vibration from ball impacting on the perimeter fencing, which will reduce noise emission created from use of the AGP.
- All playing lines are to be permanently marked 3m minimum away from the pitch perimeter to mitigate balls impacting onto the fenced enclosure.
- To manage noise generated by use of the facility, the club will introduce a Noise Management Plan with procedures to minimise any potential noise impact from users of the facility. The plan is considered to be a live document which may be revised during the operational stages in order to create an acceptable balance between the requirements for a successful sports facility and the protection of local residents' amenity.

In addition to the above limitations, the lighting impact will be controlled by the strict management of permitted operating times. Automatic time clocks will be installed to ensure lights are extinguished at the curfew hour every night of use.

- Time clocks will be set to operate within a pre-programmed time including a seasonal changeover facility for BST and GMT.
- Usage of the floodlighting system will be solely within permitted times and these hours shall be controlled by a photocell detector and timer switch to ensure that any lighting does not adversely impact local amenity.

4.9. Local Planning Policy – Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy (2016)

We understand that development management decisions must be taken in accordance with the Local Plan. The Knowsley Local Plan comprises several documents. The Core Strategy part of the Local Plan sets the strategic framework for the growth and development of Knowsley up to 2028 and beyond. The Knowsley Local Plan Core Strategy was adopted in January 2016. After review of the Local Plan policies map the site is identified as being an Urban Greenspace:

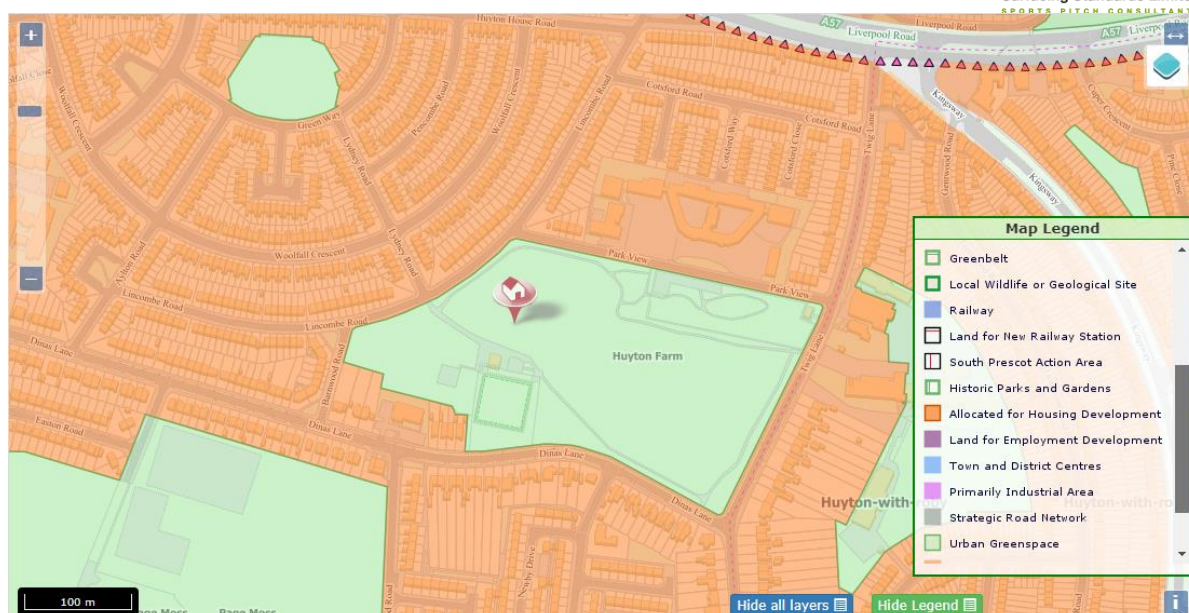
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Knowsley Local Plan Policies Map

We feel the proposal is in accordance with the key Core Strategy policies, the most relevant of which are listed below:

Policy CS2

Development Principles

1) New development in Knowsley and the preparation of subsequent stages of the Local Plan will be expected to support the following development principles:

Principle 1: Promote sustainable economic development, tackle the causes of deprivation and disadvantage and narrow the gap between the richest and poorest neighbourhoods by:

- a) Meeting needs for new housing, employment, retail and other service provision;
- b) Improving business productivity and employment levels in Knowsley;
- c) Reducing economic, environmental, education, health and other social inequalities between Knowsley and other parts of the UK; and
- d) Providing opportunities for positive lifestyle choices and health improvement for people of all ages.

Principle 2: Reduce carbon emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change by:

- a) Contributing to reductions in carbon dioxide emissions from all sources, in line with national targets;
- b) Ensuring an ability to adapt to future changes to national targets for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions, including recognising the role of new technology;
- c) Identifying and applying measures offering effective mitigation and adaptation to likely environmental, social and economic impacts of climate change; and
- d) Meeting appropriate minimum standards for sustainability.

Principle 3: Reduce the need to travel and increase accessibility by:

- a) Selecting locations that reduce the need to travel, especially by car, and enable people as far as possible to meet their needs locally;
- b) Assisting the Council in achieving a shift towards more sustainable modes of transport for people, goods and freight;
- c) Encouraging safe and sustainable access for all, particularly by promoting the use of public transport, walking and cycling between homes and employment; and
- d) Supporting the provision and retention of shared space, community facilities and other local services (such as local shops, health facilities, education provision, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship).

Principle 4: Recognise environmental limits, protect and enhance environmental assets, enhance local character and promote quality of place by:

- a) Understanding and respecting the character and distinctiveness of places and landscapes;
- b) Protecting and enhancing the historic environment;
- c) Promoting good quality design and ensuring that development respects its setting taking into account relevant design requirements, and best practice;
- d) Maximising opportunities for the regeneration of previously developed land, including derelict or unsightly areas to improve the image of Knowsley and use land resources efficiently;
- e) Mitigating potential negative impacts of traffic growth and road traffic on highway safety, air quality, noise and health;
- f) Supporting policies relating to Green Infrastructure and the greening of towns and cities;
- g) Maintaining or enhancing the tranquillity of open countryside and rural areas;
- h) Maintaining or enhancing the quantity and quality of biodiversity and habitats, including potential impacts on nationally and internationally important sites for biodiversity;
- i) Addressing any issues of unstable land, resulting from Knowsley's legacy of minerals extraction; and
- j) Minimising negative impact upon flood risk, air quality, water quality, land quality, soil quality, and noise or vibration levels and ensuring any negative impacts are appropriately mitigated.

Development that will have an unacceptable impact upon any of the above will only be permitted where the benefits of the proposal clearly outweigh the harm.

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Principle 5: Make the most efficient use of available resources and infrastructure by prioritising locations consistent with the spatial strategy, which:

- Do not require major investment in new infrastructure, including transport, water supply and sewerage, or where this is unavoidable, incorporate appropriate development phasing and delivery assistance;
- Ensure environmental protection is enhanced through the phasing of new development and delivery of supporting infrastructure, including working with neighbouring authorities and key partner agencies where appropriate;
- Support prudent and efficient management of natural and man-made resources; and
- Promote sustainable construction and efficiency in resource use (including reuse and recycling of materials).

Policy CS7

Transport Networks

Overall Transport Strategy

1) Planning powers and other interventions will be used to support a sustainable and integrated transport system that will:

- Support the economy by facilitating efficient movement of people and goods within the borough and linking to Liverpool City Centre, the Port of Liverpool, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and other destinations in the surrounding area;
- Help meet the development needs of the borough through to 2028;
- Ensure people can get to where they need to by a choice of walking, cycling and public transport;
- Enhance road safety;
- Seek to reduce carbon emissions; and
- Improve the health and wellbeing of local people.

Location, Design and Management of New Development

2) New development will be required to be:

- Located and designed to prioritise accessibility and sustainable modes of travel through a choice of walking, cycling, public transport, and incorporate access for private vehicles. Where deficiencies are identified, developer contributions will be required to improve the accessibility of the location;
- Located and designed to ensure that larger scale proposals (attracting a lot of visitors, customers and/or employees) are located in the most accessible locations;
- Where subject to a planning application, accompanied (except in the case of smaller scale proposals) by Transport Assessments and/or Travel Plans;
- In compliance with adopted cycle, car, disabled and service vehicle parking standards for different types and scales of new development;
- Inclusive of measures that will mitigate carbon emissions and improve air quality where appropriate; and
- Consistent with safeguarding arrangements that secure the operational integrity and safety of Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

Policy CS19

Design Quality and Accessibility in New Development

1) To enhance the local distinctiveness, identity and accessibility of places, new development within Knowsley will be expected to:

- Respond to and integrate positive characteristics of immediate surroundings, including local materials, scale, mass, form, layout, alignment and density of the existing built environment;
- Complement and enhance (where possible), existing landscape, topography, Green Infrastructure; and features of local importance and historic interest;
- Consider provision of landmark buildings and additional detailing at and adjacent to main gateways, movement corridors, town centres and strategic regeneration opportunities;
- Create spaces and places as a focal point, accommodating social interaction and active lifestyles, including provision and integration of high quality public realm and open spaces, public art (as appropriate); and landscaping which promotes biodiversity and integrates existing local habitats;
- Provide safe, secure and convenient routes for movement (including signage), with priority for walking, cycling and public transport, to meet the access needs of all users, particularly pedestrians, cyclists, less mobile people and the elderly;
- Integrate effectively with existing development and link to existing shopping and service provision; and
- Demonstrate community engagement during the design phase of major development proposals.

2) To maintain a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings, development proposals will be required to:

- Avoid unacceptable impacts on existing residents, business occupiers, and future occupiers;
- Minimise crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, including good levels of natural surveillance and security; and
- Accommodate future maintenance and long term management requirements.

3) To address the challenges of climate change and future changes in social, economic and environmental priorities, new development should integrate:

- Sustainable design principles, with regard to Policy CS17: Housing Sizes and Design Standards and Policy CS22: Sustainable and Low Carbon Development as appropriate;
- Biodiversity (in accordance with Policy CS8);
- Flood risk mitigation (in accordance with Policy CS24);
- Waste recycling; and
- Energy and resource efficiency.

4) Further guidance on these issues will be provided in the Local Plan: Site Allocations and Development Policies document and Supplementary Planning Documents as appropriate.

Policy CS21

Greenspaces and Trees

Greenspace protection

- In supporting the wider Green Infrastructure functions of urban greenspace in accordance with Policy CS8, the Council will provide and maintain quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards for different types of public open space.
- New development which would result in the loss of urban greenspace, will not be permitted unless at least one of the following criteria are met:
 - A surplus of provision for all types of greenspace would be maintained relative to local standards;
 - The land is considered unsuitable in terms of size, location or character to prevent or address individual deficiencies of different types of greenspace relative to local standards;
 - Appropriate mitigation is provided through replacement facilities of at least an equal quantity, quality and accessibility;

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- d) The development is required to improve greenspace provision or for ancillary facilities to support sport or recreation; or
e) Where the proposal relates to the loss of indoor or outdoor sports provision, and there is no evidence of future or continuing need for sports use, or alternatively only land incapable of forming a playing pitch or sporting facility is affected and its release accords with either clause 2)a) or 2)b).
- 3) Irrespective of whether criteria in 2) are met, unless the benefits of a proposal clearly outweigh the loss of urban greenspace, development will be resisted where it would significantly harm any existing or potential special qualities of greenspace in the area in terms of:

- a) Visual amenity;
b) Residential amenity;
c) Biodiversity and environmental benefits;
d) Historical, cultural or community value;
e) Recreational benefits; or
f) Physical and/or visual linkages between adjoining urban greenspaces.

Local Greenspace Standards

4) The quantitative and accessibility standards for the provision of public open spaces within Substantial Residential Areas are set out in Table 9.1:

Substantial Residential Area (SRA) Standards for Greenspace Quantity and Accessibility for the following greenspace typologies:

- a) Park and Garden;
b) Amenity Greenspace;
c) Provision for Children and Young People; and
d) Allotments.

5) The Council's quantitative standards for Outdoor Sports Provision are set out in Table 9.2: Community Area Standards for Outdoor Sports Provision Quantity and Accessibility and seek to maintain an appropriate range of sites and address quantitative needs for individual sports at a Community Area level.

6) The Council will keep the standards of provision referred to above under review and if necessary publish revised standards in a future Local Plan document or Supplementary Planning Document.

Accessible and Quality Greenspaces

7) The Council will support improvements to existing and new areas of greenspace in accordance with best practice standards¹²⁷, to achieve the following requirements:

- a) Accessible, safe and secure locations for all members of the community to use;
b) Clean and well maintained facilities, equipment and open spaces; and
c) Conservation of natural features, wildlife, fauna, landscapes, buildings and other structural features, as appropriate.
- 8) When considering proposals for new residential development, the Council will seek enhancements to greenspaces via on-site provision, new off site provision or enhancement of existing off site provision through developer contributions secured by legal agreement in accordance with Policy CS27: Planning and Paying for New Infrastructure, the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document and/or a Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, as appropriate.

Local Green Spaces

9) Any Local Green Spaces Designations which are formally designated will be identified in the Local Plan: Site Allocations and Development Policies or future Neighbourhood Plans (if applicable). This designation will only be used where the greenspace concerned is:

- a) Reasonably close to the community it serves;
b) Demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and
c) Local in character and not an extensive tract of land.

Enhancement of Natural and Semi-Natural Greenspace and Tree Protection

10) The Council will encourage proposals for new development to incorporate:

- a) Retention of existing trees, woodland, vegetation and other habitat features which offer a positive contribution to the local environment in terms of visual amenity, recreation value or biodiversity/wildlife interest;
b) Appropriate planting of trees, other soft landscaping and installation of habitat features for the benefit of biodiversity; and
c) Adequate replacement provision where tree loss is unavoidable, comprising two additional trees for every tree lost and taking account of species and size.

4.10. Sport England

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

A playing pitch is a delineated area, which together with any run off is of 0.2 hectares or more. Playing pitches may have a grass surface or an artificial one.

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 5 of Sport England's Playing Fields Policy and Guidance 2018.

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	The application site is presently a grassed playing field. This proposal seeks to replace the natural turf pitch with a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP).

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	It is acknowledged that the removal of an existing usable grass pitch to enable the development of the proposed Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) is unavoidable. With the current natural turf surface, the pitch becomes unusable during periods of inclement weather each winter with pitch waterlogging. This causes a number of issues during the winter term due to limited usage of the playing field. The new 3G facility will result in convenient player and pedestrian access as well as effective management of the proposed Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP). The proposed AGP will be sited adjacent to existing site facilities & infrastructure including circulation areas and ample car parking provision.
Community use of the proposed sports facility	The resultant facilities would not only be used by community football clubs, but also by partner organisations and community groups from the surrounding areas to gain the maximum football developmental outcomes, via pre-arranged and structured community access. The development of this AGP, in accordance The Football Association's technical design 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 AGP will support FA affiliated junior / youth football (highest level of competition), along with training and coaching activities. The facility will support several inclusive organisations who provide strong and sustainable education placements for providing children and young people, in addition to a number of organisations who support those with a disability. For further community use please see section 4.12
Community access formally secured through a community use agreement	A community use agreement with key partners will be established and managed on a formal basis. It is envisaged that the requirement for this community use agreement would be inserted as a planning condition and such an agreement would follow the Sport England template. The provision of the new external Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will provide increased usage in comparison to the existing site during the daytime and evenings. This extended use is possible because the proposed floodlit 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. The AGP also avoids close season maintenance works. The proposal will provide a much needed facility which would enable sport to be played throughout the year.
Sport related benefits of the proposed artificial grass pitch for the applicant and the community 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	The local surrounding area has limited access to state of the art 3G Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) and this proposal will contribute to satisfying demand for training and competition football. The proposed AGP will accord with Sport England's and The Football Association's technical design guidance for Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs). The provision of the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) could be used continuously throughout the year and intensively due to its artificial grass surface and floodlighting. This project will support Sport England's key goals in the following ways: - Increasing the number of people playing sport for at least 30 minutes once a week - Developing new teams and participation opportunities - Recruiting new players to all football formats - Providing quality training and match play facilities - Achieving growth in adult participation - Providing juniors supported pathways into adult teams

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	▪ Raising the percentage of young adults who play sport once a week ▪ Supporting club and community teams ▪ Developing secure pathways into adult football ▪ Creating pathways from recreational football into clubs
Explanation of which sports the new artificial turf pitch will accommodate	With football being the targeted sport, the appropriate surface choice is 3G artificial grass designed to FIFA Quality standards. 3G turf is regarded by The Football Association as the most suitable artificial playing surface for community football and youth development. Sport England guidance** describes this as a 'preferred football surface' and capable of high level competition / training (national/international). <i>**Sport England's guidance document 'Selecting the Right Artificial Surface for Hockey, Football, Rugby League and Rugby Union' Issue 002 / December 2010.</i>
Proposed surface type	3G artificial turf
Sustainability	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.

On the basis of the above justification, we consider the proposals would give rise to a considerable benefit to the wider community through the provision of an enhanced playing facility.

Given the above details, we believe 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.

4.11. Identifying the Need

KNOWSLEY MBC PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2018

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) provides an assessment of outdoor sport facility needs across the local authority.

The Assessment Report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch and other outdoor sports facilities in accordance with Sport England's PPS Guidance.

The Strategy & Action Plan builds upon the Assessment Report to provide a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports pitches and ancillary facilities.

The Strategy recommends a number of priority projects for the local authorities which should be implemented over the next ten years.

The primary purpose of the PPS is to ensure that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meets the needs of existing and future residents. The strategy that has been produced in accordance with national planning guidance and provides a robust and objective justification for future playing pitch provision in Knowsley.

The PPS was adopted in 2018 and is a key document in demonstrating the need and demand for the proposed developments at Jubilee Park.

PPS FINDINGS FOR FOOTBALL

Teams in Knowsley

- A total of 275 teams were identified as playing within Knowsley: these comprise of 43 men's teams, one women's team, 72 youth boys' teams, one youth girls' team, and 158 mini soccer teams.
- Prescott Cables FC is the only 'step' football club in Knowsley playing at Step 4.
- There is latent demand identified by four clubs equating to 1.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Team generation rates by analysis area predict a future increase of two youth 11v11 teams, one youth 9v9 team, and three mini soccer teams.
- Of the clubs which quantify their potential future demand, there is a predicted growth of 18 teams.

Grass Pitches

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- There are current shortfalls of youth 9v9 pitch types, and projected shortfalls across youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and 5v5 mini soccer game format pitch types.
- The audit identifies a current total of 117 grass football pitches in Knowsley across 39 sites. Of these, 79 pitches are available for community use across 24 sites.
- Liverpool FC will complete a £50m training ground expansion by 2020 resulting in the loss of football pitches at Eddie McArdle Playing Fields.
- In total, there is one good quality pitch in Knowsley, located at Prescot Cables FC, there are 44 standard quality pitches and 34 poor quality pitches.
- Issues with ancillary provision are identified at Eddie McArdle Playing Field and Lord Derby Playing Fields.
- It is hoped that the Earlsfield Park development will invest S106 funding into the Lord Derby Playing Field site and that the LFC development will improve facilities for football at the Eddie McArdle site.

Current 3G Pitches

- There are four full size community accessible 3G pitches in Knowsley located at Lord Derby Academy, Halewood Academy, Kirkby Leisure Centre and Prescot Soccer Centre.
- Two full size 3G pitches at Liverpool FC Academy and Finch Farm Everton FC Training Ground are not available for community use.
- In addition, there are 11 small sized 3G pitches, eight of which are floodlit and available for community use. The small-sided pitches at Prescot Leisure Centre are on the FA register. Poor pitch quality will impact this provision if not resolved in the near future.
- All full sized 3G pitches are on the FA register although they are not fully used for competitive play.
- Pitches at Lord Derby Academy and Halewood Academy are poor quality and will require resurfacing in the near future.
- All full-sized pitches are also operating close to peak capacity for midweek football training. However, there is significant spare capacity to increase weekend usage to accommodate competitive matches, particularly for adult fixtures.

Shortfall

- In order to satisfy current football training demand, there is a need for five full size 3G pitches meaning a current Borough-wide shortfall of one full size 3G pitch.
- When looking at 3G provision by analysis area to give a more localised view, there is a current shortfall in both the Huyton and Prescot, Whiston & Cronton analysis areas and a future shortfall in the Halewood Analysis Area.
- Consultation indicates that clubs require more access to 3G pitches and at a cost that is affordable for training and matches. Further to this, the quality of some existing sites is not considered to be value for money and is thus inhibiting use.
- The shortfall identified cannot be alleviated unless new provision is created. Given this, there is a distinct need to explore the feasibility of future provision at strategic sites in Knowsley to meet this demand.
- Resources to improve the quality of grass pitches (and then to maintain them properly) are limited. An increase in 3G AGP provision could help reduce grass pitch shortfalls by transferring play to an all-weather surface thus reducing overplay on the natural grass pitches.

PPS Recommendations

- maximise use of existing provision and provide new 3G pitches in order to accommodate competitive football fixtures and address shortfalls of grass pitches;
- identify feasible sites to increase provision of full size 3G pitches to meet training and competitive demand, particularly in Huyton, Prescot, Whiston & Cronton and in the future, Halewood;
- as a high priority, carry out a cost review to ensure that existing and new 3G pitches are value for money and affordable to local clubs for training and matches;
- encourage all current and future providers to put in place a sinking fund to ensure long-term sustainability;
- consider resurfacing Halewood Academy and Lord Derby Academy given identified quality issues and in order to be retained on the FA Register;
- consider converting sand AGPs at St Edmund Arrowsmith Academy (Prescot, Whiston & Cronton) and Knowsley Community College (Huyton) to 3G pitches given identified quality issues and need for 3G pitches in these areas; and
- ensure that all new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.

Jubilee Park

The PPS Action Plan for Huyton identifies Jubilee Park as a 'key site' for development and makes the following statements ...

- Jubilee Park is the home site of Huyton Juniors FC.
- The site contains four mini 7v7 pitches, two youth 9v9 pitches and two youth 11v11 pitches.
- All the pitches are standard quality; the 9v9 pitches are overplayed by 0.5 match sessions per week.
- The club has aspirations to develop a community hub at the site which would include changing facilities, improved toilet/kitchen.

As a result of these statements, the following actions were identified and recommended ...

- as a minimum, ensure the quality of pitches on site are maintained at least to their current standard;
- given high levels of demand on the site, commission a PIP report with Liverpool FA with a view to improving the capacity of all pitches;
- look to improve quality of ancillary provision on the site and support the Club in securing any future funding;
- continue to masterplan the site and explore opportunities for leasing the pitches to the club ensuring public access is still maintained; and
- Jubilee Park is identified as a key site with high priority for development

PPS CONCLUSIONS

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The PPS notes that where supply is currently out-stripped by demand, this situation will inevitably exacerbate projected shortfalls in grass football pitch and 3G AGP provision. The Strategy concludes that the extent to which this can be achieved is clearly dependent on the opportunities that arise - particularly through identified and targeted funding.

To address these issues, the Strategy makes the following key recommendations ...

- protect the existing quantity of grass pitches until all future grass pitch shortfalls are met (which may be through 3G pitches);
- where grass pitches are overplayed and assessed as 'poor' or 'standard' quality, prioritise investment to improve quality;
- maximise use of existing 3G provision and increase provision of full size 3G AGPs to meet training and competitive demand, particularly in Huyton, Prescott, Whiston & Cronton and in the future, Halewood;
- aim to create long term sustainability of clubs using grass pitches and where possible provide long term security of tenure;
- improve ancillary facilities at strategic and key sites that are currently serviced by poor quality provision; and
- ensure adequate provision for increased demand generated by housing developments, secured through appropriately calculated developer contributions.

The proposed developments at Jubilee Park and the partnership between Knowsley Council and Huyton JFC will help to address many of the Playing Pitch Strategy recommendations by ...

- providing floodlit training and match play on a high quality 3G surface which will partly meet the shortfall identified in Huyton;
- increasing the supply of grass mini-soccer pitches (5v5 and 7v7) which are predicted to have a shortfall in the near future;
- offering sustainability to Huyton JFC with a Community Asset Transfer giving long term security on the football facilities at Jubilee Park;
- securing S106 monies from the proposed development of the former Huyton Cricket Club ground which has poor quality mini-soccer pitches and ancillary facilities which are not fit for purpose; and
- providing mitigation for the loss of grass pitches to meet identified current and future shortfalls for football provision in Knowsley.

FA AND FOOTBALL FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Proposals have been discussed with the Football Foundation's Dan Green (Engagement Manager) and Lee Davies (Technical Project Manager), and with Tony Smith (Facilities & Investment Manager) from Liverpool FA.

The Football Foundation and Liverpool County FA have made a strategic assessment of facility provisions including the demand for improved playing and changing facilities drawing on the PPS and LFFP findings.

The priority for projects seeking Football Foundation funding is to deliver full size AGP facilities. However, the Football Foundation and Liverpool FA have confirmed their support for the Jubilee Park proposals. The project will meet the needs of Huyton JFC the largest club in the Borough, help to address the shortfalls of 3G provision identified in Huyton and deliver FA priority football outcomes.

KNOWSLEY COUNCIL LOCAL FOOTBALL FACILITY PLAN

The Local Football Facility Plan (or LFFP) has been prepared with support from the Football Foundation, Knowsley Council, Liverpool County FA, and consultation with football stakeholders. The Council leads the Plan's Steering Group.

The LFFP is aligned to the National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS); a 10-year plan to change the landscape of football facilities in England.

The LFFP builds upon PPS findings regarding the formal and affiliated game, to also include strategic priorities for investment across small sided football (recreational and informal including indoors). The LFFP also incorporates consultation with groups outside of formal football, as well as underrepresented communities

The purpose of the LFFP is to identify priority projects to enable investment in football facilities to be accurately targeted. The LFFP builds on local evidence and strategic plans and adopts relevant actions from the Knowsley Playing Pitch Strategy.

Targets in the LFFP are aligned to the investment priorities set out in the National Football Facilities Strategy, which include the following.

- the development of 1,000 new 3G AGPs [or Football Turf Pitches (FTPs) as termed in the FA Strategy] in a mix of sizes and settings;
- improvements to the quality of 20,000 natural-turf pitches;
- the construction of 1,000 new changing pavilions / clubhouses on priority sites; and
- the creation of small-sided facilities to help grow the small-sided game and for recreational and informal play.

The LFFP reports that there are 325 football teams in Knowsley which is higher than local areas of a similar size. This shows an increase since the publication of the Playing Pitch Strategy. There are 11 clubs with more than 10 teams. Huyton Junior Football Club based at Jubilee Park is the largest of these with 53 teams.

The key strengths of local football in Knowsley include adult male, youth and mini-soccer provision both of which the LFFP recommend need to be sustained and encouraged to grow further. However, gaps in provision do exist, including adult female, youth female and disability football which are a priority for football development.

The LFFP reviews existing football facility assets in Knowsley in line with the four FA investment priorities ...

- development of 3G training and match facilities;

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- investment in grass pitch improvements;
- development of ancillary provision; and
- development of small sided facilities.

3G Pitches

Six 3G pitch projects are identified as priorities by the LFFP Steering Group. Three of these relate to resurfacing existing 3G pitches at Lord Derby Academy, Halewood Academy and Prescot Soccer Centre.

Three potential project locations are highlighted for Huyton and two for Prescot, Whiston & Cronton. Each of these areas has a shortfall of one full-sized 3G FTP.

The three potential project locations highlighted for Huyton from which one will be chosen to meet demand in the area ...

- Jubilee Park (Huyton JFC)
- Knowsley Leisure & Culture Park
- Knowsley Community College

The LFFP proposes that the development of a 3G pitch in Huyton will help to meet demand for club training and match play and also help growth in affiliated football. It will also support increased participation by lower socio-economic groups and the BAME community.

The consultation with the FA and Liverpool County has demonstrated there is support from these organisations for the proposed Jubilee Park 9v9 3G pitch as stated previously. It is noted that as this is not a full size 3G there will continue to be unmet demand in Huyton which will meet the Football Foundation priority for funding.

Grass Pitch Improvements

PPS data indicates that there are currently 11 grass pitch sites in Knowsley with three or more full-size pitch equivalents containing 64 grass pitches. Of these, 17 are considered to be good quality, 17 are of standard quality and 30 poor quality. It should be noted that some of the good quality pitches are located at Liverpool FC Academy and Finch Farm Training Ground (Everton FC) and are therefore unavailable for community use.

Ten grass pitch improvement projects are identified in the LFFP as priorities, including Jubilee Park. Pitch quality rating was evidenced by PPS data and qualified by local partners. Prioritisation was informed by consultation based upon a core rationale of selecting sites in the poorest condition and that were currently/potentially best utilised.

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5. 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.

- The proposed Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) will replace an existing grassed pitch 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 as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (2023).
- 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 (2023). The proposed AGP would be available for use by partner organisations and community groups.
- The proposal would ensure that surface water run-off is effectively managed and does not increase flood risk elsewhere, in accordance with Section 14 – Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023).
- The proposal would ensure that noise emission created by use of the development is not expected to adversely affect any residents by way of noise, in accordance with Section 15 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment of the National Planning Policy Framework (2023).
- The proposal could accommodate any additional parking demand generated by the proposed development and result in no additional stress on the wider area for parking.
- The proposal would contribute to the fulfilment of the site and local community need.
- 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 site is in compliance with the relevant paragraphs in the NPPF and the relevant local planning policies set out in the Knowsley Local Plan.
- The Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and associated facilities would not result in an unacceptable impact upon the character, appearance or visual amenity of the site or surrounding area. The proposal will not appear inappropriate to any view looking into the site.

End of document

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