Item 7

DC/22/2999/FUL

Utilise the existing land formally known as "The Hollies Sports Centre and Social Club" as home pitch locations for both youth and adult football. Creation of new vehicular access/parking and associated facilities

The Hollies, Straight Road, Foxhall, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP10 OFN



Planning committee 27th February 2024

Reason for Committee

The application has been presented to members following the Head of Planning and Coastal Management using their call in powers due to the amount of public interest this application has received. The objection from the Parish Council is noted below; the application has received 61 letters of objection. No other statutory consultee has raised an objection.

Foxhall Parish Council

The Parish Council strongly objects to this application. We are surprised that a new application has been submitted for this site with only a few changes to the previous application which generated numerous objections from local residents, the Parish Council and Suffolk County Council Highways. It is clear that Straight Road and adjoining roads such as Monument Farm Lane are inadequate to cope with the additional traffic such a development will bring particularly over the short time frame the pitches would be in use. This will no doubt lead to traffic chaos in and around Straight Road and will therefore be very detrimental to Highway Safety. The new application states that a suitable visibility splay will be maintained but how this is to be achieved is disputed by several objectors. We are concerned that the proposed entrance remains adjacent to dwellings in The Hollies and within the 60mph speed limit. Highways are concerned by the dangers caused by coaches turning off Straight Road which is narrow single-track road but the applicant has boldly stated that no coaches will use the site and only the occasional minibus! How is this going to be enforced? Suffolk County Council the Lead Local Flood Authority have already expressed their concerns about the Surface Water Flood Risk and the Pollution Hazard of siting a 150-site car park on a field. Whilst local residents have also expressed their concerns about the treatment of sewage generated by this development. An area that has been sadly absent from this application. Should this application be allowed to go ahead it will have a considerable detrimental affect on the local residents and Highway Safety in Straight Road and the adjacent area. It will also lead to the loss of wildlife habitat which has recently seen the arrival of Skylarks which are a protected species. For these reasons we join with local residents and other statutory consultees in objecting to this application.

Site Location Plan



Aerial Photograph



<u> Bucklesham - Google Maps</u>

Stock photos of former BT use



The Hollies Sports Centre and Social Club; Ipswich – August 2012 | Derelict Places - Urban Exploring Forum

Stock photos of former BT use



Site History

Co6/1636 and C/10/0243 - Conversion & change of use of redundant sports accommodation to B1(A) office accommodation

In this instance, there are a number of issues in relation to Policy AP104 - most notably whether the loss of the clubhouse would result in the likelihood of the pitches being brought back into use being significantly reduced. Consultation with Sport England resulted in an initial objection to the scheme on the basis that insufficient information had been supplied to show that the clubhouse was not a financially viable proposition to a sports club (or other community use). Sport England therefore provided that if the clubhouse was to be lost, then a financial contribution to provide replacement facilities would need to be made or the rest of the ground would need to be reinstated to sports use and made available for local clubs.

Subsequent to receiving the requested information, Sport England withdrew their objection in full and concluded that;

"It is therefore considered to be very unlikely in practice that a sports club or other organisation would come forward in the future that would be willing to invest in refurbishing the clubhouse. I am therefore of the view that the facility is redundant as a sports clubhouse and that replacement facility provision would not be justified on this occasion. Whilst none of the exceptions in Sport England's playing fields policy are directly applicable, the proposal is considered accord with Planning Policy Objective 2 of Sport England's Planning for Sport and Active Recreation: Objectives and Opportunities document (September 2005) which relates to the loss of existing sports facilities and permits the loss of facilities if it can be proved that a sports facility is genuinely redundant and that there is no demand for a replacement based on a thorough local assessment."

Given the above, I am therefore satisfied that the conversion of the clubhouse would not prejudice the use of the field to be brought back into sporting/community use.



Site History

DC/14/4202/FUL - Proposed demolition of existing buildings and erection of 14 dwellings with associated vehicular access and external works.



Site History

DC/15/1327/FUL - Erection of new prefabricated wheelchair accessible shower room and wc unit, including revision to existing concrete hardstanding to form nominal ramp



Photographs – Existing Field Access





Photographs – Looking along Straight Road





Photographs Northern Boundary from Bucklesham Road





Photographs – Montage of Site of lower field proposed for parking



Photographs – Montage of Site of upper field proposed for pitches



Photographs – Access between fields



Photographs 'The Hollies' as viewed from the site









Proposed block plan





Previously submitted Block Plans







Visibility Splay (Topographical Survey overlaid)

Office Container





Changing Rooms Container (of which two are proposed)





Potential Usage

	Number of Teams	Volume of car- movement			
Timə	A CHER AN DECEMBER OF LAND	NUMBER AND CARLESS AND CARL			<u>SR</u>
9:00 - 9:30	4	48		Early Kick offs	
9:30 - 10:00	6	72		Normał Kick offs	
10:00 - 10:30	4	48		Lale Kick offs	
10:30 - 11:0D		10		Late arrivals	
11:00 - 11:30		0		Minimal volume	
11:30 - 12:00		96		Players / supporters leaving from earlier games	
12:00 - 12:30		72		Players / supporters leaving from later games	
12:30 - 13:00		10		Late leavers	
13:00 - 13:30	4	60		Arrival of players for afternoon games	
3:30 - 14:00		10		Late arrivals and supporters arriving	
14:00 - 14:30		10		Late arrival of supporters	
4:30 - 15:00		0		Minimal volume	
15:00 - 15:30		0		Minimal volume	
5:30 - 16:00		0		Minimal volume	
6:00 - 16:30		30		First to leave	
6:30 - 17:00		5D		Next to leave	
7:00 - 18:00		10		Last to leave	_
	Youth teams - 12 vehicles per team average				~
	Adult teams - 15 vehicles per team excl supporters	99999999999999999999999999999999999999	#velvezaturation		*****
	Some players / supporters arrive earlier than others				
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Material Planning Considerations and Key Policies

- **Principle of Development** Previous use of the site; Paragraphs 97 and 1020f the NPPF; SCLP 8.2: Open Space
- Access and Highway Safety SCLP7.1 Sustainable Transport and 11.2 Residential Amenity
- **Residential Amenity** SCLP11.2 Residential Amenity
- Landscape Setting SCLP 10.4 Landscape Character
- **Ecology** SCLP10.1 Biodiversity and Geodiversity and SCLP 10.2 Visitor Management of European Sites

Recommendation and Conditions

Approval – Subject to the amended conditions noted below:

- 1. Standard Time Period
- 2. Drawing/Document Compliance
- 3. Access arrangements
- 4. Appropriate surfacing of access
- 5. Positioning of gates/obstructions
- 6. Visibility Splays
- 7. Provision of parking area
- 8. Ecological Enhancement Strategy
- 9. Demolition and Construction Management Strategy
- 10. Details of footpath connection
- **11**. Strategy for disposal of surface water
- 12. Implementation of surface water strategy

- **13**. Surface water drainage verification report
- 14. Construction Surface Water Management Plan
- **15.** Implementation of ecological avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures
- 16. Restriction of hedge removal
- 17. No external lighting unless submitted and approved
- 18. Ground condition survey Sports England
- **19**. Use restriction to outdoor sport
- 20. Management and maintenance scheme Sport England
- 21. Opening hours The facility shall only be open to the public between 9am and 9pm Monday to Saturday, and between 1pm and 5pm on Sundays, and the premises shall be closed to the public at all other times including on Bank Holidays.

Condition noted in full in the report on pages 98-103