

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above Neighbourhood Plan document for Bishops Clyst.

Sport England has an established role within the planning system which includes providing advice and guidance on all relevant areas of national, regional and local policy as well as supporting local authorities in developing the evidence base for sport. The Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is clear about the role that sport plays in delivering sustainable communities through promoting health and well-being. As such, Sport England wishes to see local planning policies that seek to protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need in accordance with paragraphs 73 and 74 of the NPPF.

Sound policy can only be developed in the context of objectively assessed needs, in turn used to inform the development of a strategy for sport and recreation. Policies which **protect, enhance and provide** for sports facilities should reflect this work, and be the basis for consistent application through development management. Sport England is not overly prescriptive on the precise form and wording of policies, but advises that a stronger plan will result from attention to taking a clearly justified and positive approach to planning for sport. In this way, planning authorities will be able to demonstrate that their plan has been positively prepared (based on objectively assessed needs in accordance with paragraph 73 of the NPPF), is consistent with national policy (reflecting the NPPF), is justified (having considered alternatives) and effective (being deliverable). Without such attention there is a risk that a local plan or other policy document could be considered 'unsound'.

For more information on how to forward plan for sport please see: Sport England's Planning for Sport Forward Planning Guidance - <http://www.sportengland.org/media/351266/planning-for-sport-forward-planning-guide-july-2014-.pdf> Sport England will be shortly publishing guides on how to forward plan for sport and active lifestyles in Neighbourhood Plans.

Additionally, please note that Sport England along with Public Health England have recently launched the new Active Design Guidance, October 2015. It may therefore be useful to provide a cross-reference (and perhaps a hyperlink) to [www.sportengland.org/activedesign](http://www.sportengland.org/activedesign). Sport England believes that being active should be an intrinsic part of everyone's life pattern. As such, Sport England would expect to see the principles on Active Design embedded in any subsequent Neighbourhood Plan policy.

Lastly, as you may be aware, Sport England will oppose development resulting in the loss of playing field land or formal built sports facilities unless its loss is justified by a robust and up-to-date assessments of need. Any loss of sports provision should be incorporated into formal policy such that it may be considered through the policy making process and scrutinised at Examination in Public. As such, should any policy seek to allocate any existing playing field land or formal built sports facilities for redevelopment, we would strongly urge the Council to discuss this directly with Sport England.

Having viewed the document, Sport England has the following comments to make in the attached table:

If you would like to discuss any of the above comments further or require any additional information or advice please contact me via the details below.

Yours faithfully

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