

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Subject: West Berkshire Local Plan Review Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) Consultation - Sport England ref: SP/23/00005376
Date: 01 March 2023 13:22:00

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Good morning,

I have gone through the Local Plan a few times and I am extremely disappointed about the lack references to formal sport facilities and playing fields.

West Berkshire has an up to date robust playing pitch strategy and it identifies short falls in provision across the borough which the plan could have addressed.

The Local Plan should be using this evidence base not to just to protect playing field sites, but to enhance them where required and provide more. For example, Henwick Worthy Sports Ground is a constrained site and needs to expand. Colleagues from leisure are investing in a masterplan, but there may not be enough land to meet all the sporting requirements on this site. The obvious solution is to allocate land the other side of Tull Way for relocating the sports hub and to allocate the current site for housing, to pay for it.

An example of where the local plan fails to recognise the benefits of sport is 5.64 *Examples of GI assets*. In every other local plan I have dealt with which has a similar supporting policy statement or policy, playing fields are identified as an asset.

Therefore I do not consider the Local Pan to be sound as currently written.

However if there was a policy referring to the PPS and the need to enhance and provide playing fields, we would reconsider our position.

Given the work Sport England and some your colleagues from a number of departments across WBC including development management, have been involved in over the past few years, this situation is very disappointing.

Yours sincerely

Bob

Bob Sharples RIBA MRTPI

Principal Planning Manager - South Team

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This Girl Can



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