

Agenda Item 05

Supplementary Information Planning Committee on 9 September, 2020

Case No. 19/1388

Location	Claremont High School, Claremont Avenue, Harrow, HA3 0UH
Description	Construction of an additional floodlit artificial grass sports pitch and cricket practice facility with incorporated batting cages, installation of 12 floodlights, erection of high boundary fences with associated gates, formation of pedestrian access stairs and ramp.

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Since the committee report was written, four additional comments have been received in relation to the development proposal. Objections were received from two properties on Greenway on the 7th September and two further objections were received from Roe Green Village Residents' Association on the 3rd of September and the 6th of September. The number of objections received has increased by two, however, previous comments have been received from Roe Green Village Residents' Association. The comments received do not change your officers recommendation to grant consent. Some of the matters have already been raised previous and discussed in the main report (e.g. the consideration of noise and absence of a formal noise assessment).

The additional comments raised the following concerns:

- Hazardous infill materials are used for the 3G pitches (include EDPM and TPE) which are hazardous when inhaled and when in contact with skin or eyes;
- That 300-500 tonnes of this is added to Brent's 3G pitches each year and it escapes into rivers and streams and may also result in microplastic pollution; That an environmental permit may be required;
- That Brent should put all applications involving 3G pitches on hold until it can assure the public that it is in line with national and local policy and guidance and Brent's clean and green objectives; the surrounding environment and
- Temporary road closures in the roads surrounding Claremont School and lack of consultation on the scheme

Officers would respond to the new concern raised as follows:

- Sport England advice is that "Third generation or 3G artificial grass pitches are recognised as durable, safe, year-round playing surfaces, able to withstand intensive use and all kinds of weather. They mean more people can benefit from all the associated social and health benefits of physical activity.". In relation to health claims, they advise that "We have monitored numerous independent scientific studies on this issue, which have reported a very low/negligible level of concern for human health as a result of 3G pitches and rubber crumb." and "the European Chemicals Agency has recently published its own findings, following an extensive EU-wide study, and has found no reason to advise people against playing sport on 3G pitches with rubber crumb."
- Brent's Environmental Health Team have confirmed that current EU guidance suggests the risks to human health are low.
- The government has not legislated against the use of 3G pitches and their use is permissible across the UK. Brent's Environmental Health Team have not raised an objection to the materials proposed. The European Chemical's Agency (ECHA) has made a recommendation to restrict intentionally added micro-plastics. However, while this has been out to consultation, it has not been written into legislation as yet. Should this recommendation be taken forward, the use of micro-plastics in artificial turf (and other) products may be restricted. However, this would be achieved through the relevant legislation.
- Brent Council have introduced Emergency School Streets which involves the closing of the road outside of selected schools at pick up and drop off times to ensure the route is safer for pupils, to encourage walking and cycling and to reduce the number of vehicles in the area. The scheme does not relate to the development proposal and there is a separate consultation procedure for the scheme available until January 2021.

Recommendation: Continue to grant subject to the conditions set out in the committee report.

