

Dear Roger Ranson,

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the Draft Whissendale Neighbourhood Plan.

Sport England is a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing field land. We assess planning consultations against the five exceptions in our Playing Fields Policy and Guidance Document <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport> which reflects the wording in paragraph 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

Protecting Sport Facilities

Paragraph 99 of the NPPF offers clear advice on how sport facilities and playing fields should be considered in the planning system.

The inclusion of Policy WH2 (Community Facilities) in the Draft Neighbourhood Plan is welcomed by Sport England. However, for this planning policy to be consistent with paragraph 99 and Sport England's Playing Fields Policy for playing fields and sports facilities, the wording in part 3 (a) should be replaced with the wording below:

3 (a) "Development proposals which would reduce the quality or quantity of these sports facilities and playing field land will only be supported if existing facilities are replaced at an equivalent or better quality and quantity and in a suitable location."

Part 3 (b) should be deleted as this exception is contrary to the wording in paragraph 99 of the NPPF.

Section 3.4

The section on Infrastructure and the purpose of promoting sustainable travel and walking is welcomed. Sport England, in conjunction with Active Travel England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, has produced 'Active Design' (2023), a guide to planning new developments that create the right environment to help people get more active, more often in the interests of health and wellbeing. The guidance sets out ten key principles for ensuring new developments incorporate opportunities for people to take part in sport and physical activity. The Active Design principles are aimed at contributing towards the Government's desire for the planning system to promote healthy communities through good urban design. The document can be downloaded via the following link: <https://www.sportengland.org/activedesign>

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Sharron Wilkinson

Planning Manager, Planning & Active Design

Sport England