

GEDNEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

Local Planning Authority reference: H07-0273-25

Site: Gedney Hill Playing Field, North Road, PE12 0NL

Proposal: Use of site as children's play park to include exercise equipment and seating area

Sport England Reference: PA/25/EM/SHO/71155

Many thanks for Sport England's considered response on the Gedney Hill Parish Council Play Park Proposal.

As a matter of context we note that:

- 1) The Gedney Hill Playing Field is a field on which people can play. It has not been marked or used as a football pitch for at least five years, meaning Sport England would not be a Statutory Consultee.
- 2) The Playing Field is not part of Gedney Hill CE Primary School. The land is owned by Gedney Hill Estate Charity and leased to Gedney Hill Parish Council. The school does not use the playing field for curriculum activities; the head teacher and board of Governors of the school, supports Gedney Hill Parish Council's proposal to build a play park on the land.

Playing Fields Policy and Guidance, Sport England's Policy and Associated Guidance on planning applications affecting playing fields March 2015 updated December 2021 defines a playing field as:

'a delineated area which, together with any run-off area, is of 0.2 hectares or more, and which is used for association football, American football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.'

Gedney Hill Playing Field does not meet this definition it is not currently used for anything other than a casual 'kick around' game.

Gedney Hill Parish Council Play Park Committee undertook a robust consultation process beginning in October 2024: 148 responses were received via paper, in-person, and online surveys. Over 95% of respondents supported the creation of a play park. 63 respondents

explicitly said they don't use the field because "there's nothing to do." A public vote on preferred park designs saw over 80% choose the current proposal. A follow-up online vote confirmed 83% supported the chosen design.

This proposal delivers a widely supported, inclusive, and multi-generational play space that will benefit the whole community without removing any actively used sports facilities.

A playground which is inclusive to all abilities and ages, alongside a smaller football training pitch and space to play other sports, for example; cricket, volleyball, tennis and rugby, is what this community needs and wants.

Given that the site is not part of the school, has not supported marked pitch use in many years, and continues to offer ample space for informal recreation, we respectfully ask Sport England to reconsider its objection.

In view of Sport England's statement that consultation is not a statutory requirement in this instance, and considering that part of their objection is based on the belief that the site forms part of a school playing field Gedney Hill Parish Council request that South Holland District Council disregard this objection.

Yours sincerely

Vicki Watson

Vicki Watson
Parish Clerk