



Introduction

Redmaids' High School is proposing a significant investment into the existing sports facilities at The Lawns which will widen access to a range of sports for the pupils and the local community. The school is committed to working with the current tenants and other partners and believes that there is an opportunity to provide a high-quality sports facility that will directly benefit South Gloucestershire and surrounding areas.

The site currently offers access to football and tennis, with football being the predominant sport on site. The proposals seek to maintain the usage by Cribbs FC whilst also enhancing the range of facilities for hockey, netball, tennis, and also encouraging other sports such as cricket, rounders and athletics.

We are currently engaged in pre-application discussions with South Gloucestershire Council and the proposed scheme has been informed by those discussions. We believe that the proposals will positively contribute to the mix of sports facilities available in the local area.

Green Belt

The site is located within the Green Belt. National planning policy recognises the importance of Green Belt, and states that "inappropriate development" is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in "very special circumstances" (paragraph 143). However, facilities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation are not classed as inappropriate as long as they preserve the openness of the Green Belt and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. We believe that the enhancement of the sports facilities is not inappropriate development in Green Belt terms and is therefore acceptable in the Green Belt.

The Cribbs/Patchway New Neighbourhood Development Framework SPD (2014) identifies part of the subject site for the development of sports facilities to support the creation of the Cribbs urban extension. Local and national planning policy seeks to protect existing sports buildings and land.

Sports Facilities

South Gloucestershire Policy PSP44 – Open Space, Sport, and Recreation states that 'new buildings will be acceptable where the conversion or re-use of existing buildings is not viable and where they are essential for and proportionate to the use of the land for outdoor sport and recreation.'

Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications affecting playing pitches / fields and are currently being consulted with. Close liaison with the relevant national sport governing bodies will ensure that the proposals adhere to their requirements and regulations.

The project has undergone a robust and comprehensive design development process working closely with key stakeholders including Redmaids' High School, national sport governing bodies, and the local planning authority. This has delivered a layout and design which seeks to respond to the operational needs of the sports played, while minimising impact on the wider character and landscape.

The Lawns Sports Ground Context