

**From:** Fiona Pudge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 January 2016 16:11  
**To:** Andrew Hunt  
**Subject:** RE: Sefton Local Plan Examination Playing Field Sites

Hello Andrew

Thank you for giving Sport England the opportunity to comment on the disused hockey pitch at St Wilfred's School (Site MN2.41).

I can confirm the site has been identified within the Playing Pitch Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy as a disused/lapsed site (site id 129).

The hockey pitch was not included within the demand and supply analysis for Artificial Grass Pitches, only the natural turf football pitches which are also accommodated within the site have been assessed.

Having conferred with England Hockey I can confirm the assessment of hockey demand and overall conclusion that the hockey pitch at St Wilfred's is surplus to requirements is accurate.

However, it should be noted that in relation to the natural turf pitches the Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan contains the following recommendation:

*"Explore opportunities to bring back into use to meet identified shortfalls. If disposal of the site is inevitable it must meet all the requirements of paragraph 74 of NPPF:*

- a) With respect to the first criterion of paragraph 74 of NPPF, the playing pitch assessment which accompanies this strategy has been undertaken and shows no playing fields existing or disused/lapsed are currently surplus to requirement. All playing pitches should be protected up until the point where all demand has been met.*
- b) The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- c) The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.*

*Any quantitative loss should be mitigated through investment in sites identified within the action plan."*

I note the site specific recommendations for site MN2.41 includes:

*"Retain and improve the disused football pitches within the site and bring them back into use."*

This is both welcomed and supported by Sport England as it reflects the findings and recommendations contained within the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Kind Regards

**Fiona Pudge BA (Hons) BTP MRTPI**  
Planning Manager

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**From:** Andrew Hunt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 22 January 2016 12:38  
**To:** Fiona Pudge [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Planning North [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Sefton Local Plan Examination Playing Field Sites  
**Importance:** High

Hi Fiona,

In terms of the Sefton Local Plan the hearings sessions finished last week. At the Inspectors request Sefton Council agreed to suggest a form of wording for the sites containing disused playing fields that are allocated in the Sefton Local Plan (Appendix 1 Site Specific requirements-Attached). In addition we agreed to submit a statement setting out the councils position that the disused Hockey pitches in Site MN2.41- St Wilfrid's School, Orrell Road are surplus to requirements.

**The Inspector requested Sport England's views on both of these**, if you have any comments please make them by next **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January**, please would you also CC in Sefton's Programme Officer in your reply.

[Programme.Officer@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Programme.Officer@sefton.gov.uk)

Regards

[REDACTED]  
**Planning Officer  
Local Plan Team  
Sefton Council  
Magdalen House  
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Bootle L20 3NJ**

[REDACTED]

The Local Plan examination hearings have **now closed**, and we are expecting the Inspector's interim report towards the end of **February 2016**. To keep updated, please see [www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan).

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