



SALISBURYFC



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MAIN SPONSOR: RETAIN HEALTHCARE

Planning Department Wiltshire Council
County Hall
Bythesea Road
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28 November 2023

REVISED PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER PL/2021/04084

- 1) Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above planning application. Please see below some comments across a number of issues. It is not our aim to try and stop the building of homes which utilises existing land earmarked for development. However, we are concerned that insufficient attention is being given to issues emanating from the football club's proximity to some of the dwellings.
- 2) We do not have the expertise to comment on the light and noise levels from a technical perspective, however we did contact lighting experts to model the light spillage in June 2022 (enclosed). I assume Wiltshire Council and the Planning Officer will employ the necessary expertise to verify the new Persimmon technical calculations.
- 3) **Floodlights**. As a result of the rejection of the previous application Persimmon opened discussions with Salisbury FC to replace our floodlights with a new system which would reduce the light spillage into the dwellings nearest to the ground to within acceptable levels detailed within Government and Wiltshire Council guidance. It seems that Persimmon now believe this is not necessary particularly as the floodlights would not be in use after 2300hrs. Whilst this would be infrequent there is a greater possibility of this happening now or at the very least matches finishing later than in previous years. There are 3 reasons for this:
 - a) **Length of Games**. It is not unusual now for there to be 100 minutes plus games given the FA's instructions to officials to be stricter on "time wasting" and "time added" for injuries etc.
 - b) **Cup Competitions**. Evening cup games could involve an additional 30 minutes of play followed by a penalty shootout. In these instances, coupled with a) above a match could

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extend up to and beyond 2300hrs. Whilst FA and FA Trophy games tend to be played on Saturdays, any replays or rearranged games would be on a Tuesday. Southern League and Wiltshire FA cup games are played on Tuesdays and for any evening fixtures.

- c) It should also be noted that the floodlights are in use during the winter months for Saturday fixtures from approximately 1530 until 17.30.

The existing floodlights consist of a bank of 6 lamps per tower in two rows of three with an additional spotlight above these. Until recently the spotlights in the 4 towers have not been in use but we have now commissioned the additional lighting to meet the requirements of the Southern Football league and prepare for possible promotion to the National League South. At this moment in time we do not know if additional lighting, over and above the spotlights, will be required to meet the League standards. For the first time in several years promotion is a real possibility. I cannot comment from a technical aspect what impact this would have but are concerned with the comment in the lighting report “existing floodlighting will not have any significant impact on the immediate environment concerning lighting pollution.” Judging a significant impact can only be subjective and depend on the individuals and/or circumstances. Although the Spillage Impact report is clearly written by Lighting experts, I can see no evidence within the report to suggest the existing light spillage regarding the impact on to the proposed residential properties; is compliant to Environmental Zone 2 criteria from within *GN01 ILP Guidance Note 1 the reduction of obtrusive light 2021*.

- 4) **Noise.** The last 3/4 years had seen a decline in attendances. However, this season with a new management team in place and virtually a new team the “buzz” and feel-good factor is back with greatly increased attendances and subsequent increase in noise generated. A Saturday game last season would be around 450 spectators, this season it is around 800. Tuesday games last season would be around 375, this season 600. The team has a realistic chance of promotion. Promotion could bring another increase in spectators and noise generated. I note the match referred to in Noise Assessment Report was our game on 22 Apr with 711 spectators which is nearer to this season’s crowds. However:
- a) This was a Saturday game when the noise would be in the afternoon between the hours of 1430hrs and 1700hrs. There would be a greater likelihood of complaints for an evening game.
- b) Any noise generated that day would have come from the Weston Super Mare fans who had come to celebrate their team winning the league. Our fans did not contribute to any noise that day as we were just glad to see the end of the season!!

The report is correct in highlighting the lack of outdoor events e.g., Music. However, whilst no events are in the diary we are now working with the Immersive Group and are looking to put on

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events in the future noting the requirements of our existing licence. I would not wish those agreed licence restrictions to be increased as a result of the development. Revenue streams outside of football are now essential for any Non-League football club to survive.

- 5) **Footballs.** I have previously commented that a high net is required along the eastern perimeter of the ground to catch flying footballs. Access to retrieve the footballs must also be possible so a “ransom” strip is required with ownership in the hands of Laverstock and Ford Parish Council (L&F PC) to ensure there is no land grab by residents. Funds should be made available to L&F PC for any ongoing maintenance of the net(s). I can see no mention of a high net or some other way of trapping footballs that go over our existing fencing. On average 2/3 balls every game are collected by our stewards that have been kicked over the existing fencing.
- 6) If thought useful necessary I am happy to meet with the Planning Officer and any representatives of Wiltshire Council and L&F PC. You are of course very welcome to attend a game to see for yourselves what happens on a match day or perhaps more importantly a night game to see the light spillage on that piece of land. I am concerned that once the dwellings are built and occupied and Persimmon have ceased responsibility for them any noise and lighting complaints will come to the Club. These would be passed on to the planning approval authorities to resolve.

Yours Sincerely,

Ian Hammond

Chairman Salisbury FC

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