

From: Mrs J Wakeham

Sent: 06 February 2026 09:30

To: Wright, Georgina <Georgina.Wright@wiltshire.gov.uk>

Cc: Mr P Blunden

Subject: RE: PL/2025/09107 - Cond 15: Management & Maintenance Scheme for 17/05583/DP3 The Stonehenge School, Holders Road, Amesbury, Salisbury, SP4 7PW

Hello Georgina

Apologies for the delay in responding to you and thank you for forwarding the comments received from Sport England, the Football Foundation/FA and the RFU. We appreciate the opportunity to respond and to clarify the rationale behind the proposed maintenance and management approach.

By way of context, the grassed area created measures approximately 82m x 39m, which is significantly below the minimum dimensions for a standard football or rugby pitch (90m x 45m). As such, the area is not intended to function as a formal or regulation sports pitch, nor to accommodate competitive fixtures, but rather as a smaller, informal recreational space with limited and lower-intensity use.

Given this scale and intended use, the maintenance regime has been proportionately designed to reflect a lighter level of wear and demand than would be expected for a full-size, formally used pitch. On that basis, the following points explain why certain elements were omitted:

- **Deep aeration:** While acknowledged as beneficial for heavily used full-size pitches, deep aeration has been excluded due to the reduced size, lower intensity of use, and the associated cost. The surface is not expected to experience the same level of compaction as a regulation football or rugby pitch, and routine surface care is considered sufficient to maintain safe conditions.
- **Fertiliser application:** Fertiliser has been excluded as a non-essential measure in this context. Grass establishment and growth will be monitored, and natural regeneration supported through routine mowing and seasonal care. Should conditions indicate a need in the future, this can be reviewed as part of ongoing management.
- **Weed control:** While we recognise that weed control can improve durability in intensively used pitches, the proposed approach aims to minimise chemical interventions where possible. The lower usage levels mean that weeds are unlikely to compromise playability to the extent anticipated for full-size, high-use pitches. This will, however, be kept under review, with intervention undertaken if weeds begin to materially affect the quality or safety of the surface.

In summary, the maintenance plan has been intentionally scaled to reflect the non-standard size and informal recreational function of the grassed area, balancing usability, sustainability and financial viability.

We trust this provides sufficient justification for the proposed approach, but we are happy to discuss proportionate amendments should you feel further clarification is required.

Kind regards

Mrs J Wakeham

Business Manager