

Reydon Parish Council – Planning Group Report October 2022

Applications

DC/22/2829/FUL: St Felix School Halesworth Road Reydon

New artificial grass pitch (AGP) for football usage with PE level hockey usage, including the provision of 6 No floodlight columns and installation of a dome over an existing block of tennis / netball courts

Expiry date: 28th October

The proposed AGP will replace an existing grassed area previously used for football, to the west of the school site, on the footprint of the existing playing field.

The dome will cover an existing tennis / netball court block at the rear of the school.

The aim is to provide sporting facilities that can be used in all weather conditions.

Potential concerns:

- height of new steel mesh fencing and entrance gates around AGP perimeter with ball stop fencing at up to 3m
- light pollution from the new floodlight system (six masts, 15m high, mounted with sixteen LEDs)
- appearance of dome in an AONB (around 9m high)

Generally, the provision of improved sporting facilities should be supported, particularly if they are to be made available to the community as the application suggests. (“The school wishes to engage with local community groups to provide access to the new AGP facility out of school hours and on weekends”.)

The AGP specification appears to be to a high standard, and the LED lighting has been designed adopting Bat Conservation Trust recommendations.

The proposed dome over the tennis / netball courts cannot exactly be described as an attractive addition to the landscape (it has been variously likened to Sizewell B and to an ‘illuminated jellyfish’). Is it visually acceptable in an AONB? It will extend the usage of the facilities for the school and is at least at the rear of the school and not visible from the road. It is also, presumably, a less permanent fixture.

Suggest RPC supports application, whilst expressing concerns re light pollution in an AONB and stressing the need for promises of community use to be fulfilled via a comprehensive community use agreement.

No further applications listed for October so far.

Applications decided:

DC/22/2799/FUL 35 Halesworth Road – permitted

DC/22/2018/FUL Beulah 47 Wangford Road – permitted

Consultations

Initial Consultation Document – Healthy Environments Supplementary Planning Document

Consultation dates: 26th September to 7th November

The Healthy Environments SPD is ‘intended to provide planning and design guidance for creating built environments and accessible natural infrastructure which help to support our communities’ health, weight status, inclusion, social connectivity, wellbeing, and amenity”.

Some examples of well planned built environments

- housing that meets housing needs, creates mixed communities and is tenure blind
- inclusive and wildlife-accommodating natural open space
- community growing space
- active travel infrastructure
- a mix of uses that provide access to high-quality food, goods and services (including health services)

The consultation aims to gather feedback on what we think the SPD should include and address by responding to a series of consultation questions.