



Hertfordshire Cricket Limited

PO Box 610

Welwyn Garden City

AL7 9QR

Re: Support for Wheathampstead Cricket Club – Kimpton Hoo Ground Redevelopment

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of Hertfordshire Cricket, I am pleased to offer our strong support for Wheathampstead Cricket Club's application for funding to redevelop the disused cricket ground at Kimpton Hoo into a grass and astro turf playing facility.

This project represents a highly strategic and timely investment in community sport provision within Hertfordshire. Wheathampstead Cricket Club has demonstrated exceptional growth over recent years, particularly in junior and female participation. The increase in junior membership from just 10 to over 200 players, alongside the establishment of a thriving girls' pathway with three competitive teams, reflects both the club's strong leadership and its commitment to inclusive participation. However, this success has also placed significant pressure on existing facilities, with demand now exceeding capacity.

From a strategic perspective, this project closely aligns with the ECB's and Hertfordshire Cricket's 'inspiring generations strategy'. The desired outcomes from the Hertfordshire strategy are:

- Enhancing a network of volunteers
- Transform the landscape for women and girls
- Connect and grow
- Build and improve current cricket facilities
- Safeguard the club network
- Connect communities
- High quality and inclusive performance pathway
- Professional governance structure

The proposed redevelopment of the Kimpton Hoo site will directly fulfill these outcomes. Bringing a currently unused and derelict space back into active use aligns strongly with national and local priorities to maximise existing assets and increase opportunities for physical activity. The planned provision of a natural turf square, improved outfield, non-turf pitch, and irrigation system will ensure a durable, high-quality facility capable of supporting year-on-year growth.

In particular, the club's focus on engaging girls, women, and those new to cricket is especially commendable. The expectation that at least 100 new participants will engage within the first two seasons—many from underrepresented groups—demonstrates clear and measurable impact.

The benefits of this project extend beyond cricket. Increased access to local, inclusive sporting opportunities will support improved physical and mental wellbeing, strengthen community



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cohesion, and reduce barriers to participation, including the need for travel outside the local area. The inclusion of opportunities for older adults (50+) is also an important feature, supporting lifelong engagement in physical activity.

We also welcome the club's commitment to environmental sustainability. Plans to incorporate biodiversity improvements, reduce reliance on diesel-powered equipment, and introduce rainwater collection systems demonstrate a forward-thinking approach that aligns with HSPs and Sport England's environmental priorities.

Hertfordshire Cricket recognises Wheathampstead Cricket Club as a key community anchor organisation, with the capacity and vision to deliver this project successfully and sustainably. The redevelopment of the Kimpton Hoo ground will play a vital role in ensuring that the growing demand for cricket in the area can be met, while also contributing to broader health and wellbeing outcomes for the local population.

We strongly endorse this application and encourage North Herts to support this important project.

Yours faithfully,

Dominic Chatfield

ECB Liaison & Executive Officer / Head of Participation

Hertfordshire Cricket Limited

May 2026