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From: Roy Warren <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 19 March 2026 16:06

To: Paul Chaston <[REDACTED]>; Ben Glover
<[REDACTED]>; Sam Dicocco <[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: Ongoing Planning Applications in Ickleford, Hitchin and Pirton

Hi all

Further to our meeting this morning I said I would provide the Playing Pitch Calculator and Sports Facility Calculator outputs for the four planning applications referred to in Paul's email. All of the population estimates have been based on multiplying the maximum dwelling number for each application by an average dwelling occupancy of 2.4 persons per dwelling.

In terms of priority projects, the new North Herts Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and North Herts Indoor Sports Strategy (ISS) are now substantially complete and should be used going forwards for informing priority projects that financial contributions should be used towards. I attach the latest versions (Rachael Rooney in Planning Policy is leading on the strategies if you have any queries about it). The PPS sets out a list of high priority actions for the West Analysis area (where all of the application sites are located) as well as actions for individual facilities. The ISS sets out actions for individual facilities.

My advice on priorities for all of these applications based on interpretation of the strategies would be as follows:

- Adult/Youth/Mini Football – the recommendations in the PPS for Ickleford Sport and Recreation Club are for improved ancillary facilities. The recommended contribution for football should be focused on the aggregated figures for changing rooms for adult and youth football pitches. No specific priorities have been identified for football pitches other than maintenance but it should be checked with NHDC Green Spaces (Alan North) whether contributions are still required towards capital works for enhancing pitch quality at Walsworth Common. The provision of a new changing pavilion at Walsworth Common is also an alternative project for the changing facility contributions.
- Cricket – while not specifically identified in the PPS, Hertfordshire Cricket have previously identified that improving the cricket square at Ickleford Sport and Recreation Club through a non turf or hybrid wickets have been a priority. As above the priority in the PPS for Ickleford Sport and Recreation Club are for improved ancillary facilities which are shared by football and cricket clubs. The cricket pitch and changing facility contributions should therefore be used towards these projects at Ickleford Sport and Recreation Club
- Rugby Union and Rugby League – the PPS identifies that sports lighting and drainage plus RFU specification changing rooms are priority projects for the Hitchin Rugby Club site at King George V Playing Field in Hitchin which are also used by North Herts Crusaders Rugby League Club. The rugby union and rugby league pitch and changing facility contributions should therefore be used for pitch and changing facility works at King George V Playing Fields.
- Hockey – the PPS has identified that resurfacing the Hitchin Boys School and Lucas Lane Sports Ground artificial grass pitches (both used by Blueharts Hockey Club) are the priorities for meeting hockey needs. Sand based AGP pitch contribution should therefore be used to either of these projects. No need for changing facility contribution to be secured for hockey as no needs or projects identified.
- 3G Artificial Grass Pitch – the Playing Pitch Strategy identifies a need for an additional 3G AGP in Hitchin and the Priory School has been identified as a site for accommodating a second 3G AGP. The 3G AGP contribution should be used towards this project therefore. No need for changing facility contribution to be secured for 3G AGP as no needs or projects identified.
- Sports Hall – the ISS has identified priorities for improving the quality of the sports halls at Priory School and Fearnhill School as well as the squash courts at Ickleford Sport and Recreation Club so the sports hall contribution should be used towards any of these projects.
- Swimming Pools – Hitchin Swimming Centre would be the priority project. Louise Randall best placed to advise on specific projects for using the swimming pool contribution towards.
- Tennis – the PPS identifies that improved court quality is a priority at King George V Playing Field in Hitchin and this has also been a priority for NHDC Green Spaces. The tennis contribution should therefore be prioritised for this project.

I would recommend that advice is also sought from the NHDC Green Spaces (Alan North) and Leisure (Louise Randall) teams as well as the relevant parish councils to help inform the projects. All of the above projects would be suitable for meeting additional demands from the Pirton and Ickleford areas due to the strategic catchments that sports facilities have. No capital projects have been identified in Pirton in the PPS/ISS which is why no projects in Pirton itself have been identified.

I hope this is helpful.

Let me know some potential dates for a training session on the use of the calculators and interpretation of the strategy priorities.

Let me know if there any queries.

Regards

Roy Warren

Planning Manager



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