

Planning Consultation Response Form

Part 1: Consultation Comments	
Consultee:	Preston Cricket Club
Application Ref:	24/01604/FP
Site Address:	Temple Dinsley (formerly The Princess Helena College), School Lane, Preston, Hertfordshire SG4 7RT
Summary of Response:	Support
Consultation Comments:	The overall development provides tasteful and appropriate continuity for an important listed building, furthers residential opportunities in a popular village and is sympathetic to wider community considerations. The provision of community sports facilities on previously private areas of the estate greatly assists the continuity and expansion of sporting opportunity for village residents and visitors.

Part 2: Required s106 Contributions/ Obligations	
Named Project:	Creation of cricket ground, erection of new pavilion and improvement of existing sports equipment building within the Temple Dinsley estate.
Responsible Party for named project:	Preston Cricket Club
Justification and reasoning for named project	
The project is consistent with The North Herts Local Plan 2011-31, Strategic Policy SP10 b covering, under Healthy Communities, the provision of sporting facilities within new developments (see para 4.130), as well as being consistent with the Vision of The Preston Parish Neighbourhood Plan 2018-31 and the specific policies at QL1 (Social Interaction) and AF1 (New and Improved Community Facilities). From its foundation in 1882, Preston Cricket Club has expanded in recent years, enjoying great success in the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League, where it currently fields four senior Saturday XIs throughout the summer, as well as two Sunday teams, an emerging women's team and more than 70 junior players enjoying both coaching and matchplay cricket. The season for our four Saturday adult teams (competing every week in the Saracens Hertfordshire League's Championship, 4B, 8 West and 10 North Divisions) runs from the first Saturday in May to the first Saturday in September (two teams at "home", two teams away) and therefore creates the need to host two concurrent home matches. To enable the staging of concurrent fixtures, a second ground currently has to be hired out of the village (with poor security of tenure and increased cost to the community), necessitating extra travel for village residents and other club members. With Preston's expanding community and strong demand for growth in our senior and junior facilities, we have looked for some time to provide a second cricket ground within the parish. The opportunity under discussion would be a major step forward for the club and community, meeting existing demand rather than just being of theoretical benefit for initiatives of uncertain future use or sustainability. In addition to these expanding senior cricket commitments, staging more than 50 junior matches (teams at u9, u10, u11, u12 and u13 levels) in a condensed junior match schedule (late April to end of July), as well as weekly coaching sessions for both seniors and juniors, is too much for the facilities at	

the main Preston Recreation Ground and we badly need to increase the availability of home pitches to meet the expanding demand for this extra use - especially for our juniors to enjoy qualified coaching and matchplay in a secure, well maintained environment. Our grounds maintenance team are all volunteers from within the club and an opportunity to be able to take some of the load from our current main ground will be key in maintaining their enthusiasm for the service that they provide to the community.

The Club qualifies for full Clubmark status - the kitemark for fully accredited organisations under the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) - with all the necessary safeguarding policies and enjoys particular success in attracting a culturally diverse membership (an identified ECB priority).

We have worked hard to identify the current opportunity to stage cricket at Temple Dinsley / Princess Helena College, expanding rather than reducing the availability of sports facilities there and opening access for the broader community - both from the village and the wider area.

The location of the proposed pitches and outfield, on-site to the existing estate, meet ECB minimum size standards for adult cricket (which allow for both the playing area and surrounds), and comply with the findings of a specialist ground development consultancy, recognised and approved by the ECB. The appearance of the ground, and both the proposed pavilion and improvements to the current equipment store there, will enable renewed sporting use of the green space on this part of the estate without detracting from the character of the overall development. As well as promoting environmental benefits through reduced travel, design aspects such as the use of water recycling and solar power would be a further step forward from the existing out-of-parish facilities.

Security of tenure for the community's use of the proposed ground will be provided by a long (likely 50+ years) leasehold agreement into which the Cricket Club would enter, including the duties of maintenance of the ground for the benefit of that wider community.

This application, necessary to increase rather than reduce community sporting access to the development, enjoys the support of both the owners of the estate and Preston Parish Council.

Overall, we do believe that by allowing rekindled sporting use of the proposed PHC site, the community would be better served environmentally, economically and socially. Increased community access to the estate, allowing the transfer of some cricketing use from the main ground at Preston Recreation Ground, would enable wider sporting and other community use of that site too.

Estimated Total upfront Costs of project:	£175,000
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