



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

North Herts Council
Council Offices
Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
SG6 3JF

Our Ref: AS22369

17 July 2026

Dear Planning Committee,

Re: Support for Hitchin Rugby Club's Floodlighting Planning Application.

I am writing to express my support for Hitchin Rugby Club's Floodlighting Planning Application.

As a local MP, I am a big supporter of investment into grassroots facilities, and Hitchin Rugby Club has stood out to me as an incredibly important asset to our community. The club has had a long and continuing 160-year history of positive contribution to the local area. As one of the largest amateur sports clubs in my constituency, with over 800 members, it is a rock in the community. Importantly, the rugby played in Hitchin is wide-ranging in age and gender, from Little Ruggers for toddlers all the way up to the Men's and Women's adult teams.

Hitchin Rugby also has a longstanding record of supporting more than just a game of rugby. Their encouragement of health, wellbeing and community engagement shows that it really is more than a club.

While I, of course, support the normal process for environmental and planning considerations, I would entreat you to consider that the proposed floodlight installation would enable a safer training space for evening rugby, support growing participation, and help protect surfaces by spreading usage across multiple pitches. The lighting scheme will also be designed professionally, and this would be to minimise light spillage.

Importantly, it will only operate during evening training sessions, which will end well before the site's existing 10pm curfew.

Ultimately, I believe strongly in the principle of the proposed floodlight installation: facilitating Hitchin Rugby to continue on its mission of helping children, teenagers and adults develop through the sport of rugby, and continuing to build a strong community for the next 160 years of Hitchin Rugby Club.

Yours sincerely

Alistair Strathern MP
Member of Parliament for Hitchin
Standing up for our towns and villages