

Members' site visit update

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: 16/0044/LA

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT: Upgrade existing school playing fields to a 3G artificial area to allow for rugby, football and a 200m running track, erect a minimum 5m high security fence, designate an area as MUGA pitches with a surrounding fence at minimum 2.4m height and provide floodlighting to the 3G pitch only, along with pedestrian lighting to the pathways.

LOCATION: Y Gwyndy - Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni, Pontygwindy Road, Caerphilly

DATE OF SITE VISIT: 4 April 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: D Carter, M Adams, J Pritchard, P Bevan

The following points were raised by members, and the answers provided:

- Are there hours of operation for the floodlights? Yes, as set out in condition 9 on page 155 of the report.
- Who will switch off the lights? This is the responsibility of the operators who will do it manually.
- Will the pitches be used for matches? This is outside the control of the local planning authority, but there are no supporter facilities, and it is more likely to be used for training.
- Bookings and the management of the site will be done through the school.
- 9.00 a.m. too early for weekend start? On the basis of experience elsewhere any activities would start at around 10.00 a.m. but the additional time would be needed for setting up.
- Can the development be realigned to preserve the tree at the rear of Dol y Felin? The root protection area of the tree would have to be avoided which would have a significant impact on the location of the fencing and the pitch itself, which could not be instead upon from a planning point of view. Replacement planting would be carried out.
- Do the projected light levels take account of the removal of the tree? Yes.
- Parc y Felin should not be used during construction. The management of the traffic would be controlled by condition 3 as set out on page 153 of the report. The starting point is that Parc y Felin Street should not be used, and the applicants could be advised to include this as a tendering criterion for the scheme.
- How long will the project take? At present it is considered to take 6 months.
- Will there be any access to the facility from surrounding streets? No, this is controlled by condition 4 on page 153.