



Great Marlow School

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Dear Parents/ Carers

Planning Application for a 3G Football Pitch

In partnership with the Football Association (FA) and Marlow Youth Football Club we have been working on a project to further develop the facilities at Great Marlow School (GMS) and the Redgrave Sports Centre (RSC) for the benefit of our community.

The project is to build a 3G football pitch on the school field adjacent to the existing synthetic pitch to provide a high-quality football surface for the benefit of GMS, other schools, and local community football clubs. As part of the development there will be a significant focus on developing the footballing opportunities for marginalised groups in society to provide a fully inclusive facility.

Marlow as a town does not currently have a 3G Football Pitch and Great Marlow School was identified as the perfect location to remedy this situation, particularly, considering the sports facility management infrastructure that exists via the Redgrave Sports Centre.

You may ask the question why does the area need another synthetic pitch? To address this question, besides the point above, the existing synthetic pitch at GMS is a hockey surface which is used for football training but cannot be used for matches for most age groups and leagues. The grass pitches even with a significant investment over the past 10 years still cannot be used for parts of the year because of the weather. The current grass pitches do not provide the quality of playing experience desired today. In addition, the demand for pitch access for hockey and football is significantly far more than what we can offer with our current facilities.

The game of football has moved on significantly from the pre-premier league era and the facilities available to support the development of the game needs to keep pace. In addition, with the challenges in society of increasing sedentary lifestyles, levels of obesity and challenges around mental health: improved facilities and opportunities for participation in physical activity is vital. Physical activity is widely recognised to have a significantly positive impact on all these areas, making people healthier and happier.

The planning application is with Buckinghamshire Council, and you can show your support by visiting the planning application portal via the following link: [24/05179/FUL | Creation of a 3G Artificial Grass Pitch \(AGP\) with perimeter fencing, acoustic fencing, hardstanding areas, siting of storage container, 6 x 13m high floodlights, an access footpath and associated topsoil bund | Great Marlow School Bobmore Lane Marlow Buckinghamshire SL7 1JE \(wycombe.gov.uk\)](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-applications/24/05179/FUL)

As you will see from the planning application detail, we are planning to retain the displaced soil from the site in the form of bunds and locating these on our boundary, which will enable us to both reduce the environmental impact of the overall project and extend the wildlife corridor around the school perimeter in keeping with our wider eco strategy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Kevin Ford

Executive Headteacher