

6th October 2026

Development Management
Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
Wokingham
RG40 1BN

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Application under Section 73 to Vary Condition 2 Attached to Planning
Permission 261371 for Safety Netting at Henley Cricket Club, Matson Drive,
Remenham, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 3DB**

Introduction

I write on behalf of Henley Cricket Club in support of this application submitted under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 seeking a variation to the approved plans associated with the recently approved safety netting installation at Henley Cricket Club. The approved scheme comprises safety netting supported by permanent posts approximately 10 metres in height located along the western boundary of the cricket ground adjacent to Remenham Lane.

Proposal

The purpose of this application is to amend the approved development so that the safety netting is instead supported by posts with a maximum height of approximately 6 metres. In addition, the posts and netting would be demountable rather than permanently fixed in position. The colour, appearance and material finish of both the posts and netting would remain unchanged from the approved scheme. The proposal therefore relates solely to the height and operational characteristics of the approved structure.

Planning Considerations

The proposed amendments represent a clear reduction in the visual presence of the development when compared to the extant permission. The approved scheme allows for posts extending to approximately 10 metres in height. The proposed posts would be 4 metres lower, resulting in a substantially reduced vertical presence above the existing boundary vegetation and within views from Remenham Lane and the surrounding area. The proposal would therefore lessen any visual effects associated with the approved development.

A further benefit of the revised design is its demountable nature. The proposed posts can be removed entirely during periods when they are not required, including the winter off-season. This goes beyond the approved arrangement and provides an additional degree of flexibility and reversibility. The ability to remove the structures from the site for extended periods of the year will reduce their visual presence and further minimise any impact upon the character of the area, the openness of the Green Belt and the setting of nearby heritage assets. The approved planning permission already recognised the benefits of lowering and removing netting when not in use, and the revised proposal strengthens that position by enabling the supporting structures themselves to be removed seasonally.

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Importantly, the revised proposal continues to fulfil the same fundamental purpose as the approved development, namely the provision of safety infrastructure associated with the operation of an established cricket club. The proposal continues to support the safe use of the cricket ground and assists in reducing the risk of cricket balls leaving the site and affecting neighbouring land, property and highway users. The public benefits of the approved development therefore remain unchanged.

Conclusions

Given that the proposal seeks a reduction in height together with the introduction of a fully demountable system, it is considered that the amended scheme would result in no greater impact than the development already approved and would, in several respects, provide a more favourable outcome in visual and amenity terms.

The application is therefore respectfully submitted for the Council's consideration and approval. Should any additional information be required during the determination of the application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to working positively with the Council.

Yours faithfully,

Alex Cresswell
BA (Hons), MA, MRTPI

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