

Paper 1

APPENDIX 3

Community Council Response

aviemore & vicinity
community council

"Stand fast, Craigellachie"



'Colonsay'
12 Morlich Place,
Aviemore,
Inverness-shire,
PH22 1TH

17th July 2011

Robert Grant,
Planning Officer,
Cairngorms National Park Authority Planning Office
Albert Memorial Hall
Station Square
Ballater
AB35 5QB

Dear Robert,

2011/0216/DET = Land To East Of Football Pitch Birch Road Aviemore

I refer to the above application by Highland Council for the construction a synthetic pitch, erection of 5 metre boundary fence, 8 x 16 metre floodlighting columns, and siting of metal storage container at land east of football pitch, Birch Road, Aviemore. Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council wish to object to the application for the following reasons;

1. 3G STP is really only suitable for ball games. This would seriously reduce the flexibility of the playing field. The old football pitch was used for much more than football. It was also used for open days and was available for any sport. Apart from the obvious uses of the old pitch, it was also used by helicopters from the emergency services due to its close proximity to the Medical and Ambulance Centre. It is our understanding that due to the proposed high fencing, floodlights and make-up of 3G STP (the surface has loose grains of rubber and sand which can be ingested by aircraft engines) it would no longer be suitable for use by helicopters.

2. The inclusion of high fencing and 6 metre high floodlights will do nothing to conserve or enhance the natural heritage and landscape of the area. It will be visually obtrusive and there will be an inevitable increase in light pollution. This would not be the case with the original proposals.

3. There is no provision for spectators.

4. It is odd that in 10/153/CP the proposal was for a smaller grass playing field. The reason given to us was that there was insufficient room to make a competition size pitch. What has changed? The new proposal is much bigger.

5. There has been absolutely no consultation with the community on this application. Even the Highland Councillor, who attends our Community Council meetings, did not see fit to tell us. Cynics would suggest that money, in the form of a grant, has become available to put in a 3G STP pitch and the decision was made without feeling the need to check if it was what the community wanted or needed. It is not needs based.

In conclusion;

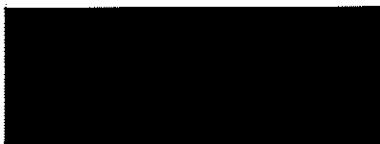
Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council object to the application.

The overall objective should be to ensure that the playing field is sufficient in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility to satisfy current and likely future community demand. Playing fields and sports pitches should not be redeveloped except where the playing field which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by a new playing field of comparable or greater benefit and in a location which is convenient for its user. This will clearly not be the case if 3G STP is used.

The proposed playing field will do nothing to conserve or enhance the natural heritage and landscape of the area.

Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council requests that a representative be allowed to address the Planning Committee in order that the members of the CNPA board may have a better understanding in terms of planning and its effect on Aviemore and its environs of this particular development.

Yours sincerely,



John Grierson

Chairman