

**Craven Local Plan**

**Hearing Statement**

**Matter 13: Community Facilities**

Submitted on behalf of Giggleswick School

September 2018



**GIGGLESWICK**  
SCHOOL

**Turley**

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**Client**

Giggleswick School

**Our reference**

GIGM3002

25 Sep 2018

# 1. Matter 13: Community Facilities

## Issue 2 – Sport, Open Space and Recreation – Policy INF3

### **Q5. How were the Open Spaces, Civic Spaces and Sport and Recreation Facilities shown on the Policies Map determined? How were sites considered for inclusion?**

- 1.1 The designation of Open Spaces, Civic Spaces and Sport and Recreational Facilities by Policy INF3, as shown on the Policies Map, is underpinned by three evidence base studies, all of which were published in February 2016:
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Assessment<sup>1</sup>
  - Sports Facilities Strategy 2015-2032<sup>2</sup> (SFS)
  - Craven Playing Pitch Strategy<sup>3</sup> (PPS)
- 1.2 The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Assessment primarily identified and assessed areas of open space, such as parks and gardens, natural and semi-nature greenspace, and amenity greenspace. It does not identify or assess playing fields or sports pitches.
- 1.3 The SFS identified and assessed formal or built sports facilities, such as sports halls, swimming pools, tennis and squash courts, and bowling greens. It does not identify or assess general playing fields or other types of outdoor sports facilities, such as those for rugby, football or cricket.
- 1.4 The PPS assesses the scale and quality of playing fields and sports pitches across Craven, including those for outdoor sports. However, it has not undertaken a detailed identification of the precise boundaries of playing fields.
- 1.5 As such, none of the three evidence base studies which underpin Policy INF3 have undertaken a detailed assessment which identifies the boundaries of outdoor playing fields. In particular, none of these evidence base studies have involved site visits to playing fields with the express purpose of ensuring that the proposed boundaries of the identified playing fields are accurate or that all land proposed to be designated as such is in use for that purpose. In most cases these boundaries – and therefore the extent of the proposed designation – will be clear and self-evident when a playing field is identified. However, in a limited number of cases it is possible that the boundaries of the designated Open Spaces, Civic Spaces and Sport and Recreational Facilities shown on the Policies Map may be incorrect.

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<sup>1</sup> *Update Assessment of the Existing and Future Needs of the Community for Open Space, Sport & Recreation Facilities within Craven District*, Craven District Council (February 2016)

<sup>2</sup> *Sports Facilities Strategy 2015-2032*, Craven District Council (February 2016)

<sup>3</sup> *Craven Playing Pitch Strategy*, Craven District Council (February 2016)

1.6 This is the case in respect of Giggleswick School’s playing field provision, as discussed below in relation to question 10.

**Q7. Are there any factors which indicate that a site(s) should not have been designated as an Open Space, Civic Space or Sport and Recreation Facility?**

1.7 Yes. The designation of the designation of land at Giggleswick School by Policy INF3 includes land which is not in use and is currently physically incapable of being used for such a purpose. This is discussed in more detail below in response to question 10.

**Q10. What is the justification for designating land at Giggleswick School as open space?**

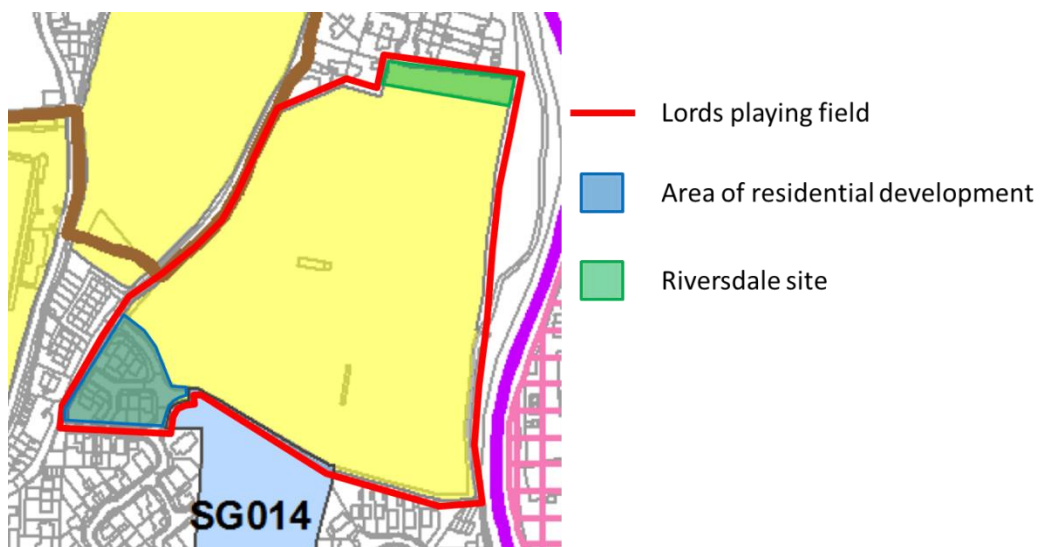
1.8 Various areas of land in Giggleswick is designated as Open Space, Civic Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities by Policy INF3. The majority of this land is owned by Giggleswick School and is currently in use either as a sports pitch, playing field or general amenity open space both by the school and local sports clubs. Its designation by Policy INF3 is therefore justified.

1.9 However, the designation also includes two small areas of land which are not in use as open space, civic space, or sport and recreational facilities, as follows:

- Land to the south-west of the Lord’s playing field off Bankwell Road. This land was the subject of residential development in 2015 to deliver 10 new homes.
- Land to the south of Riversdale at the northern edge of the playing field. It is 0.25ha in size. It is an undeveloped site which is currently comprised of trees and other landscape planting.

1.10 Figure 1.1 below identifies the location of both areas of land.

**Figure 1.1: Location of land to the south-west and north of the Lord’s playing field which is not in use as sport or recreational facilities**



- 1.11 The land to the south of Riversdale is not a usable area of playing field land given that it is comprised of and compromised by landscape planting. It does not form part of the school's playing field provision, cannot be viably used as such and therefore has no value as open space. It has been out of use for over five years.
- 1.12 The school has promoted the allocation of the Riversdale land for residential development<sup>4</sup>. CDC's SHLAA identified that the land is suitable for residential development and this was confirmed by its identification as a 'Preferred Housing Site' in the first draft Local Plan in late 2014<sup>5</sup>. This conclusion is reiterated in the evidence base which underpins the draft Local Plan.
- 1.13 The extent of the designation at the Lord's playing field has not been identified having regard to the physical attributes of the land and the extent to which different parts of it actually comprise part of the playing field. The two areas identified above clearly do not form part of the playing field. Their designation as Open Space, Civic Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities by Policy INF3 is therefore considered to be unjustified and therefore unsound mindful of the tests at paragraph 182 of the Framework. The Local Plan can be made sound in this respect by amending the boundaries of the designation to exclude the two areas of land identified above.

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<sup>4</sup> *Publication Draft Local Plan: Representations by Giggleswick School* (January 2018)

<sup>5</sup> *Background Paper: Residential Site Selection Process (incorporating employment site selection)*, Craven District Council (January 2018)

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