

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

This statement of support is from Nick McLaren of Surfacing Standards Ltd, the planning agent, acting on behalf of the applicant, Braintree District Council.

This application refers to the refurbishment and replacement of the existing lighting to the artificial sports pitches at The Discovery Centre within Great Notley Country Park.

The pitches are a well used sporting facility within the park for the people of Great Notley, Braintree and surrounding villages. Last year the football pitch was refurbished which included replacing the original carpet with a new 3G surface primarily for football use. The macadam court offers tennis and netball use. This planning application, for the refurbishment of the lighting, is a continuation of the refurbishment project.

The existing lighting has had several failures recently and the existing fittings are now unavailable for purchase. The original planning application from 2008 included a condition that stated *'No alteration to the approved mounting arrangements, mounting angles, change of luminaire type or output rating will be permitted without the written consent of the Local Planning Authority'*. Therefore this planning application seeks the approval to change the existing metal halide luminaires to LED luminaires.

New lighting technology, and in particular LEDs, offer many benefits over the existing luminaires, with better colour rendering, more precise control of light spillage, longer lifespan and a reduction in energy usage whilst giving the same light output. The energy required to illuminate the football pitch will be reduced by 50% and the macadam multi-use games area will be reduced by 25%.

The light spillage plans demonstrate that the spillage is slightly improved compared with the existing arrangement. The colour temperature of the light is slightly lower from 4500kelvin of the existing lighting to 4000kelvin. The higher the number the whiter & bluer the colour and the lower the number the softer & yellower the colour.

The design makes use of the existing columns, and therefore the mounting height will not be increased or altered.

The refurbishment has been carefully designed and meets the requirements of the Institute of Lighting Professionals Guidance Note For The Reduction of Obtrusive Light (2020).