

AstroTurf FAQ

Q Why not simply play on grass?

A Unfortunately the rules of league hockey require us to play on Artificial pitches.

Q Why can't you use the Artificial grass pitch at Tring School or Ashlyns?

A We do use the one at Tring School. There is just massive demand for hockey and other sports which means the Tring pitch is simply not enough on its own. The Artificial grass pitch at Ashlyns is the wrong type – hockey cannot be played on 3G pitches.

Q Why do we need fencing?

A For safety and security. We need to protect spectators and other users of the space from getting hurt and therefore to maximize the available playing space in the local vicinity. We also need to protect the surface from vandalism.

Q Flooding lighting can be seen for miles and light pollution is a real problem these days.

A The lighting for the BHHHC AGP bid is so sophisticated there is no light spill up or out. It will be a vast improvement on what we have now.

Q If you live nearby the pitch will you be impacted by the light pollution?

A No really. None of the neighbours would be able to see the illuminated surface even during the winter. They will not be able to see the LEDs directly so at most they might see the light haze where we are illuminating the air between the floodlights and the surface of the pitch.

Q Is laying an artificial pitch is bad for the environment?

A Actually because we have been using the area for sports pitches for about 60 years, the fact that we have been maintaining and cutting the grass on a regularly basis means that while it might be seen to be a 'green' area, it is little biodiversity across the grass. So putting in an artificial surface will have very little impact. Indeed our plans will include for some additional planting along the fence so overall the biodiversity will increase.

Q Does the artificial pitch generate a lot of plastic microfibres.

A No, the design and maintenance of the surface prevents any such particles from getting away from the pitch.

Q What else can be played on this surface?

A The type of artificial grass pitch that we will be putting in is also referred to as a Multi-Use Games pitch so can be used for all sorts of sports other than hockey. That would include 5-a-side football, basketball, futsal, tennis, netball and many other sports.

Q Can anyone use the surface

A Yes, we are going to have a community use agreement so that all clubs and societies in the local area will be able to use it.

Q Are we losing part of the Green Belt?

A Actually no. The National Planning Policy says that Green Belt is intended prevent sprawl, assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment of development and to preserve the setting of historic towns. It also notes that land within designated Green Belts has a positive role to play fulfilling a number of objectives, including the provision of opportunities for outdoor sport and outdoor recreation near urban areas. In many ways by putting an artificial grass pitch in we will safeguard the Green Belt because the hockey club will stay there.

Q is the road access from the A4251 really dangerous?

A Actually no. There have only been 4 minor incidents (no one injured) on the road through Cow Roast over the last 4 years.

Q will there be a lot more traffic?

A No. we are not expecting the traffic density to increase much. The club is already heavily used on Sunday mornings with football, archery and dog walking going on and that will remain the busiest time during the week.

Q isn't this a Historic Monument

A No, not where we are putting the pitch. In fact we have put it as far away from the Historic Monument as we can.

Q How much is it going to cost and how are you going to pay for it

A We think it will cost somewhere between £650,000 and £750,000. We have not prepared a detailed budget yet. With limited time resources we are focusing our efforts on getting over the first hurdle – getting planning permission. As to how we pay for it, we will be looking for grants, donations, loans and selling an awful lot of cakes!

Q Why do you need an astro?

A There is only one astro in the whole of Dacorum on which you can play hockey. Without additional facilities hockey may disappear from the borough.

Q How will the astro impact other users of the site?

A Again, very little. The astro is going to be installed on what is now a football pitch and the two hockey only pitches closer to the Club house will be made available for other sports. As part of the floodlighting we are also planning on putting in lighting to illuminate some of the turf next to the astro so that others can train at night on the grass.