

Barnard Park – public engagement FAQ's

Q. Why is the 3G sports pitch now shown as its current 9-a-side size?

A. The original design of the park, which received planning permission in 2017, included a 7-a-side pitch, together with an adjacent recreational green space with natural turf to the north of the pitch. It was decided that a 7-a-side pitch best protects the general amenity and biodiversity of the park as well as protects and creates a diversity of sporting and recreational opportunity for the whole community.

The planning application was subsequently called in by the Secretary of State at the request of Sports England who were of the view that the proposed pitch was too small. As a result a compromise was reached in the autumn of 2017 to include a 9-a-side sized 3G sports pitch in the design for the park and to also include, adjacent and to the north of the pitch a more informal and open sporting and recreational green space with natural turf. This area of grass is large enough to accommodate mini-soccer 5-a-side pitch 37x27m plus run-off; 43x33m if required and this forms part of the agreement with Sport England.

The 9-a-side sports pitch is 79x52m fence to fence and is shown on plans marked out for 9v9 football and three smaller sized football pitches. It is shown with additional goal recesses, 4.5m high fencing with rebound fencing to 1.2m high and 8 floodlight columns. It will have a shock pad to allow for rugby training. The 7-a-side size sports pitch previously shown was 65x42m with the same height fencing and the same number of floodlights.

The 9-a-side sports pitch will primarily be used for football but can also be used for rugby training, tag rugby, softball and other games and recreational activities.