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Planning Conusltancey

Cheltenham Ladies College Health & Fitness


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Project Overview:

In 2018, Cheltenham Ladies' College opened a new state-of-the-art Health and Fitness Centre, expanding facilities to include a combined offering of 50m pool, new sports hall, multi-purpose activity spaces, dance studio, 5 squash courts, fitness gym, as well as floodlit outdoor netball and hockey pitches. The site is located within the Central Conservation Area in close proximity to listed and local listed buildings. The main sports field adjoins existing residential properties that back onto the site. Both the new build elements and floodlighting met with opposition from the settled community. Evans Jones acted as lead Planning Consultant securing full planning permission for the expanded health and fitness centre including bespoke retractable floodlighting to the hockey pitch.

Challenges:

As Cheltenham Ladies' College is situated within Cheltenham's Central Conservation Area, the proposals required careful site analysis and liaison with stakeholders to ensure that the scheme positively enhanced the Conservation Area.

Service: Planning Consultancy
Location: Cheltenham



The floodlighting of the external hockey pitch had been subject to a number of failed planning applications and appeals. This element required particular care and ingenuity in conceiving a scheme which overcame the previous reasons for withholding consent. Evans Jones managed the application consultation with stakeholders and submission and negotiation with Cheltenham Borough Council, coordinating the design team and specialist lighting consultants. The Planning Committee of Cheltenham Borough Council approved the proposal with the majority of councillors supporting the scheme.

Results:

Following approval of the scheme the proposal was implemented by Kier Construction. The Ladies' College are now able to provide a full Health and fitness offering to pupils including integrated indoor sport, health and fitness facilities, indoor pool and outdoor floodlit pitches. Given the contribution that Cheltenham Ladies' College make to the town the scheme provided substantial financial benefit in attracting pupils, additional employment and parental "spend" within the town. Evans Jones secured this decision following many previous attempts by the College to gain approval for this lighting.

