

# Comments for Planning Application TP/ED/26/0104

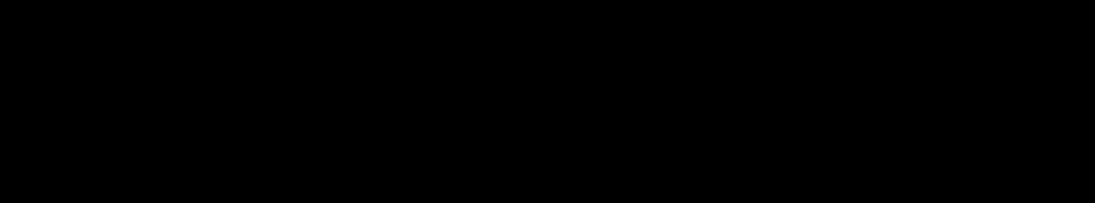
## Application Summary

Application Number: TP/ED/26/0104

Address: Whitegates Park Middlemuir Road Lenzie East Dunbartonshire

Proposal: Erection of a secondary school including road access, landscaping, car parking, sports pitches, recreational areas and associated development.

Case Officer: Fraser McNair



## Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I object on the following basis:

Whitegates Park currently serves as a well-used public space. The loss of this open space would negatively affect communities' access to recreational areas and opportunities for outdoor activity. In the Local Development Plan, the park was designated as 'open space of regional & neighbourhood importance.' In an area where open space is increasingly valued for both physical and mental wellbeing, its removal would represent a significant and irreversible loss. I use this space for safe outdoor play with my 3 year old daughter, as does her local nursery. This park is used by young people to play safely outdoors. They should not have to walk across Lenzie, over very busy roads to access the same amenity.

I am also concerned about the impact on local traffic & road safety. The construction/ operation of a large secondary school at this location would inevitably increase traffic volumes, particularly during peak periods. This could place additional pressure on surrounding streets and create safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists & local residents. In particular Kirkintilloch Road and Garngaber Road experience tail backs at peak times.

The environmental impact of building on an established rewilded space should be considered. The Ecology Report clearly stated that a number of red listed species are in the park including Song Thrush, Starling & House Sparrow. The original ecology review of Whitegates Park for the ASN school in 2018 also noted the site unsuitable due to disturbing pipistrelle bats (European Protected species). The park supports local biodiversity and contributes to urban green infrastructure. Development may result in habitat loss and a reduction in tree cover, which would be detrimental to local wildlife and environmental sustainability.

I would urge the council to fully consider alternative sites or redevelopment options at the current school that do not require the loss of valued public space.