

Comments for Planning Application TP/ED/26/0104

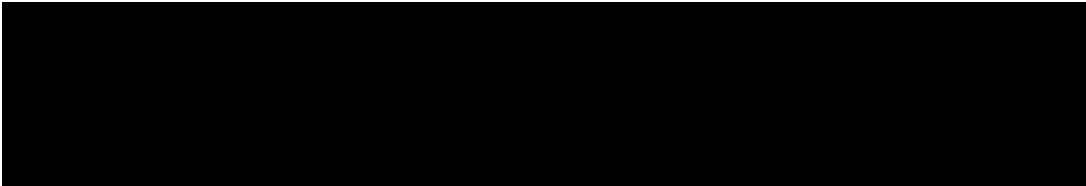
Application Summary

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: significant biodiversity enhancement required for the loss of WP.

The Scottish Government's Control of Woodland Removal Policy includes a presumption in favour of protecting woodland from built development and sets out criteria for determining the acceptability of woodland removal "Removal will only be permitted where it would achieve significant and clearly defined additional public benefits".

The public benefit claimed by the applicant is the provision of essential infrastructure and a new school. I dispute this claim as this essential infrastructure already exists and an improved school can be provided elsewhere without the loss of a valued neighbourhood park.

As previously rehearsed, reliance is placed on an inferred park for compensatory replanting and the no net loss of biodiversity requirement. It is disingenuous of the Arboricultural Impact Assessment (PL70) to rely on the inferred park as mitigation for the reasons I have previously outlined.

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment has been found to be inadequate to support the proposal i.e. insufficient information relating to loss of open space and loss of trees from a flood attenuation and carbon sequestration perspective.

All trees in WP are now temporarily covered by Tree Preservation Order - Whitegates Park, Lenzie (No.1 2026). A decision to confirm the Tree Preservation Order is due in September 2026. I am in no doubt that the council will confirm the Tree preservation Order due to the council's assessment of the trees and their significant landscape value;

"The Council is of the opinion that the protected trees make a positive contribution to the surrounding area in terms of visual amenity, biodiversity and landscape value. The majority of trees are in good condition and exhibit considerable life expectancy. The trees contribute substantially to the character and visual appeal of the local area, providing clear public benefit. On that basis, the Council is of the opinion that in page 18 of several