

FORMAL OBJECTION: PLANNING APPLICATION TP/ED/26/0104

Loss of Community Amenity, Health, and Natural Heritage

TO: East Dunbartonshire Council Planning Department

DATE: 20/04/26

I am writing to formally **OBJECT** to Planning Application **TP/ED/26/0104**. This objection focuses on the permanent loss of Whitegates Park as a vital green asset and the inadequacy of the proposed mitigation measures.

1. Inadequacy of Myrtle Avenue Mitigation (NPF4 Policy 9)

The applicant proposes "mitigation" at Myrtle Avenue to compensate for the loss of Whitegates Park. Under **NPF4 Policy 9**, the loss of protected open space is only acceptable if a superior alternative is provided.

- **Objection:** Myrtle Avenue is a "manufactured" replacement that cannot replicate the **established ecosystem** of Whitegates. Whitegates is a natural wetland and peatland with decades of biodiversity growth. A new, smaller green patch does not compensate for the destruction of a complex, functioning natural habitat.

2. Accessibility and Convenience for the Community

Whitegates Park is centrally located and serves as a critical "Green Node" for residents in Lenzie and Kirkintilloch. Its layout provides safe, flat, and accessible routes for all generations.

- **Objection:** For many elderly residents, young families, and those with limited mobility, Whitegates is the only accessible, large-scale green space within walking distance. Forcing the community to travel further to a smaller, secondary site (Myrtle Avenue) reduces **convenience and equity of access**, effectively "locking out" those who rely on the park for daily exercise and fresh air.

3. Impact on Mental Health and Wellbeing

National Planning Policy (NPF4) explicitly recognizes the link between access to quality green space and public mental health.

- **Objection:** Whitegates Park is a "tranquillity zone" that provides a respite from urban noise and traffic. The destruction of this specific landscape—which many residents have relied on for decades—will have a measurable **negative impact on community mental health**. The Council has failed to conduct a proper Health Impact Assessment (HIA) regarding the psychological loss of this specific natural heritage.

4. Destruction of an Established Ecosystem (NPF4 Policy 3)

Whitegates is not just "empty land"; it is a thriving ecosystem. NPF4 Policy 3 requires development to facilitate "Biodiversity Enhancement."

- **Objection:** Building a massive school complex on this site represents a **net loss to nature**. You cannot "mitigate" the loss of a 4.8m deep peat bog and mature wildlife corridors by planting a few trees elsewhere. The environmental value of Whitegates is intrinsic to its location and cannot be moved.

CONCLUSION

Whitegates Park is an irreplaceable asset for residents in Lenzie, Kirkintilloch and other areas, it's crucial for our health, heritage, and biodiversity. The proposed mitigation is insufficient and the community loss is too great. I urge the Planning Authority to **REFUSE** this application.

SIGNED: _____

[Redacted Signature]

PERSONAL P.S. (Please describe how the loss of this specific park would affect your daily life or mental health):

This park is accessible to me, it's safe and I walk the dog here. I wouldn't use Woodhead Park as it's not an area that affords people a quiet, safe, walk. Woodhead Park is next to a busy main road. Whitegates Park is completely safe for bikes, I also take my grandchildren to Whitegates because it's away from busy traffic. We often spot deer and love bird spotting. Whitegates Park is a safe sanctuary and should not be removed. The idea that a "new park" at Myrtle can compensate for an already established park is ludicrous.