

## Planning

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 17 March 2026 21:15  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Fwd: TP/ED/26/0104

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally object to the proposal to construct the new Lenzie Academy at Whitegates Park. While I support the need for a modern secondary school, I believe that the proposed site is unsuitable and that the development would have significant negative impacts on the local environment, infrastructure, and community.

### Loss of Established Public Green Space

Whitegates Park is an important and well-used public green space that provides recreational, environmental, and wellbeing benefits to the local community. The permanent loss of this parkland would remove a valuable community asset that supports outdoor activity, mental health, and social interaction. Once lost, this green space cannot realistically be replaced.

### Conflict with Planning Policy Protecting Open Space

National and local planning policies generally prioritise the protection of established green spaces and recreational land. Development on such land is typically only supported where there is clear justification and where no reasonable alternatives exist. In this case, the proposal appears to conflict with the principle of safeguarding community green spaces.

### Environmental and Biodiversity Impact

Whitegates Park contains mature trees, natural habitats, and supports local wildlife. Large-scale development would inevitably result in habitat loss and disturbance to biodiversity. At a time when both national and local governments are promoting biodiversity protection and nature recovery, the loss of an established green space appears inconsistent with these objectives.

### Climate and Environmental Sustainability Concerns

Urban green spaces play a key role in carbon storage, cooling urban environments, improving air quality, and supporting climate resilience. Removing a substantial green area for development would reduce these environmental benefits and contribute to increased urbanisation of the area.

### Surface Water Drainage and Flood Risk

Green spaces such as Whitegates Park play an important role in absorbing rainfall and reducing surface water runoff. Replacing permeable land with buildings, car parks, and hard surfaces increases the risk of surface water flooding in surrounding residential areas. In light of increasing extreme weather events, protecting natural drainage areas is increasingly important.

### Traffic Congestion and Road Safety

A secondary school of this size would significantly increase traffic levels in surrounding residential streets, particularly during peak drop-off and pick-up times. The local road network will struggle to accommodate this additional traffic safely. Increased congestion will create safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists, and local residents.

### Impact on Residential Amenity

The proposed development would introduce significantly higher levels of activity, noise, and traffic in an area currently used primarily for recreation and green space. This could negatively impact the quality of life for nearby residents.

### Concerns Regarding Site Suitability

Concerns have been raised about potential ground contamination and the extent of remediation required to make the site suitable for development. If significant remediation is necessary, this may represent an inefficient use of public funds and raises questions about whether the site is appropriate for a school environment.

### Need to Properly Consider Alternative Sites

It is important that all reasonable alternatives are fully explored before building on valuable public parkland. Redevelopment or rebuilding on the existing Myrtle Avenue site should be carefully reconsidered. Many

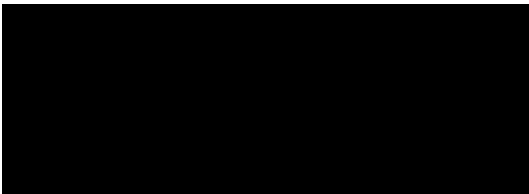
schools have successfully been rebuilt on their existing sites using phased construction or temporary accommodation, avoiding the loss of community green space.

### Community Consultation Concerns

Many residents feel that community concerns regarding the loss of the park and the suitability of the site have not been adequately addressed. Meaningful engagement with the community is essential when proposals involve the permanent loss of valued public spaces.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the council to reconsider the proposed development at Whitegates Park and to explore alternative options that would allow the construction of a new school while protecting valuable public green space for the community.

Yours faithfully,



Sent from my iPhone