

Planning

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 August 2026 20:05
To: Planning
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Objection to Planning Application TP/ED/26/0104

Dear Planning officer,

I am writing to formally object to the above planning application.

This email sets out material planning considerations arising from the conflict between the proposed development and East Dunbartonshire Council's own Draft Greenspace Strategy 2026-2031 ("the Greenspace Strategy"), approved by the Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets Committee.

I ask that this objection be registered in full and taken into account by the case officer and, if the application proceeds to committee, by elected Members.

1. Status of the Greenspace Strategy as a material consideration

The Greenspace Strategy has been prepared in response to the Planning (Scotland) Act 2019, National Planning Framework 4 (2023) and Planning Advice Note 65, and is explicitly intended to inform Local Development Plan 3 and future planning decisions. It replaces the Council's previous Open Space Strategy 2015-2020 and sets new, locally adopted open space quantity and quality standards. As a recently committee-approved strategic document that the Council itself states will be integrated with statutory reporting, including under the Climate Action Plan, it is a material consideration directly relevant to the assessment of this application.

2. Whitegates Park is a recognised, good-quality asset

The Strategy's Open Space Audit assesses Whitegates Park directly. It is recorded as a Public Park and Garden in Lenzie and scores 70% (Grade B) in the Council's own quality assessment - a well-above-threshold, good-quality site. This is not a marginal, underused or poor-quality space whose loss could be considered low-impact; it is a recognised community asset by the Council's own most recent evidence base.

3. Lenzie already has a deficit of parks and gardens against the Council's own adopted standard

The Strategy sets a local quantity standard of 2.0 hectares of parks and gardens per 1,000 population. The Open Space Audit shows Lenzie's current provision of this typology is only 1.70 ha/1,000, a shortfall of 2.41 hectares against the adopted standard.

Lenzie's overall open space figure appears healthy only because natural/semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace exceed their standards; within the specific 'parks and gardens' typology — the category to which Whitegates Park belongs - Lenzie is already below the Council's own adopted standard. The proposed development would remove one of only four parks and gardens sites in Lenzie, deepening an existing, quantified deficit rather than merely failing to add to a surplus.

4. Conflict with the Strategy's stated aims and standards

The application conflicts with the Strategy in the following specific respects:

- The Strategy states that East Dunbartonshire's greenspaces are “essential public infrastructure - critical to the health and wellbeing of our communities, the resilience of our places, and the recovery of nature.” The application proposes permanent loss of a substantial area of exactly this kind of infrastructure.
- Theme 1 (Adapt and green urban areas) commits the Council to retrofit and expand greenspace and blue/green infrastructure to reduce flood risk and regulate temperature, targeting investment at areas of greatest need. Removing an established Grade B park runs directly counter to this commitment.
- Theme 2 (Restore and enhance nature) and Theme 6 (Planning, policy and development) commit the Council to embedding multifunctional greenspace and nature-based solutions within development decisions and to ensuring development contributes positively to ecological connectivity, rather than removing established habitat.
- The Strategy's own methodology, which is based on Fields in Trust guidance and PAN 65, is designed to identify and remedy deficits in open space provision - not to be used alongside decisions that increase an identified deficit.

5. No evidence of assessment against the Strategy's standards

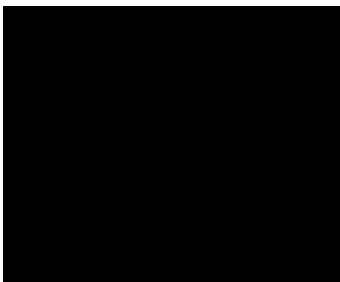
There is no evidence in the information publicly available on this application, or in the site selection record for Lenzie Academy, that the quantified deficit identified in the Council's own Open Space Audit was considered when Whitegates Park was selected as the preferred site, or when the current application was prepared. Given that the Strategy states its reporting will be integrated with the Climate Action Plan and other statutory processes specifically to avoid such gaps, this application should not be determined without a transparent assessment of its impact against the Council's own adopted open space quantity and quality standards.

6. Conclusion and request

For the reasons set out above, the proposed development conflicts with the Council's own Draft Greenspace Strategy 2026-2031, including its quality assessment of Whitegates Park and its quantified parks and gardens deficit for Lenzie. I ask that the application be refused, or alternatively that determination be deferred pending a published assessment of the proposal against the Greenspace Strategy's own open space standards, including consideration of how any loss of parks and gardens provision in Lenzie would be remedied, not merely offset through unrelated natural greenspace enhancement at another site.

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this objection

Kind regards



[Your Name]