

## Planning

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 August 2026 21:29  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** OBJECTION - TP/ED/26/0104

Dear Planning Officer,

I wish to submit an objection to the proposed Lenzie Academy development at Whitegates Park on the grounds that the application has not demonstrated that the significant impacts arising from the loss of this valued community greenspace have been properly assessed, understood and balanced against the claimed benefits of the proposal.

Through an Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) request, East Dunbartonshire Council has confirmed that, at the time of the enquiry, it did not hold -

- an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA);
- a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment (CRWIA); or
- any other socio-economic impact assessment evaluating how the loss of Whitegates Park would affect local children and the wider community.

The Council also confirmed that:

"No report, briefing notes or internal assessments that compared the negative impact of losing this community greenspace against the projected educational benefits to the school's population... are held."

This raises significant concerns regarding whether the planning balance required for this application has been properly undertaken.

Whitegates Park is an established community greenspace and forms part of the local green network. The proposed development would result in the permanent loss of this open space and would have consequences for:

- children's access to outdoor recreation and natural space;
- community wellbeing;
- local amenity;
- biodiversity and environmental quality;
- the character of the surrounding area.

Given the nature and scale of the proposal, the Council should be able to demonstrate clearly how these impacts have been assessed and how the claimed educational benefits outweigh the harm caused by the loss of an existing community asset.

The Council has provided information regarding pupil numbers, placing requests and out-of-catchment pupils. However, it has confirmed that it has not undertaken any assessment comparing these educational factors against the loss of Whitegates Park.

The information provided by the Council indicates that the number of pupils residing outwith the catchment area has reduced over recent years, falling from 502 pupils in 2021/22 to 388 pupils in

2025/26. Placing requests have also reduced. However, no evidence has been provided to demonstrate how these trends have informed the decision to select Whitegates Park or the justification for the scale and capacity of the proposed development.

A planning decision must be supported by evidence and must demonstrate that all relevant material considerations have been properly taken into account. The absence of any documented assessment weighing the educational benefits against the environmental and social harm of losing Whitegates Park means that the Council has not demonstrated that the proposal represents an appropriate balance.

The Council has stated that an EQIA would be undertaken only if required and before the end of the pre-construction phase. However, impact assessments are intended to inform decisions, including choices about location and design, rather than being undertaken after fundamental decisions have already been made.

There is therefore concern that the impacts on children, equality, community wellbeing and access to greenspace have not meaningfully informed the selection of Whitegates Park as the preferred site.

I therefore object to the application on the following material planning grounds:

1. The proposal would result in the unacceptable loss of an established community greenspace without sufficient evidence demonstrating that the benefits outweigh the harm.
2. The application does not demonstrate that the impact on children and young people has been properly assessed.
3. The application does not provide evidence of a transparent assessment comparing the educational benefits of the proposal against the environmental and social impacts of losing Whitegates Park.
4. The Council has not demonstrated that alternative options have been fully assessed against the harm caused by developing protected open space.
5. The absence of appropriate impact assessment evidence prevents a fully informed planning decision from being made.

I therefore request that planning permission is refused, or that determination is deferred until the necessary assessments and evidence have been provided to demonstrate that the loss of Whitegates Park is justified and that all reasonable alternatives have been properly considered.

The permanent loss of this valued community greenspace should not be approved without clear evidence that the planning balance has been properly undertaken and that the harm caused is outweighed by demonstrable public benefit.

Kind regards

