

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

Customer Details

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: To Whom This Concerns,

Planning Application Number: TP/ED/26/0104

Site Address: Whitegates Park, East Dunbartonshire

I am writing in reference to the above planning application to lodge a formal objection to the proposed build of a secondary school in Whitegates Park.

Whitegates Park has been a core and valued park for many decades, used as the site of a multitude of activities for the residents of Lenzie, Kirkintilloch and the community as a whole.

I have briefly listed some of the reasons as to why the destruction of the park and erection of a secondary school will be disadvantageous to the members of the community.

1. Amenity (e.g. noise, traffic, impact on sunlight or privacy)

The destruction of Whitegates Park and erection of a secondary school will cause a huge increase of traffic to the surrounding residents during both during the destruction and construction phase, and the daily operations of the school. The traffic will be significantly disruptive and will bring a massive influx of noise to all surrounding residents in both Kirkintilloch and Lenzie, namely Laurel Avenue, Hazel Avenue, Middlemuir Road, & Parkview Court.

The application describes the secondary school as a 4-story building, which will undoubtedly block natural sunlight to the surrounding residents and invading the privacy of homes and gardens bordering the proposed site.

2. Design (e.g. height of building, density of development, detailing and materials, or how the proposed development takes account of its surrounding)

As described above, the proposed school will be 4-stories. In addition to the invasion of privacy and impact on sunlight, this will be very visually displeasing, particularly to the residents of Laurel Avenue, Larkfield Road and Monkland Avenue.

3. Environmental Impact (e.g. loss of trees or open space, flooding or impact on wildlife)

Whitegates Park has always been a hub for wildlife. The trees in the park add character and biodiversity to the area, helping the community increase their efforts in protecting the environment. This space is commonly used as a home and grazing ground for the likes of deer, foxes and a range of birds. Post Covid-19, there was an encouraged decrease in grass cutting in an effort to increase wildlife and biodiversity and cause minimal disruption to the animals who see the area as a home.

In addition to the above, the ground was deemed "toxic" in 2018 as it was under consideration for the location of a new ASN school. During this assessment, building the new school posed "significant potential for adverse environmental impact". During the destruction and construction phases of this project, removing soil will mean that extremely toxic and hazardous material will be transported through the community which is a huge health & safety risk to the community.

The planned site is also a major flooding zone during wet weather with water flooding into neighbouring houses due to poor drainage systems in place. This will be exacerbated by the school being built.

More importantly, the ground is used as a daily location for local dog-walkers which adds a hugely beneficial impact to the wildlife and biodiversity.

4. Access (e.g. public transport access, adequacy of parking provision or cycle and footpath provision).

Presently, there are 4 access points to the site - a 'hole in the wall' at the corner of Middlemuir Road & Woodside Avenue, Woodilee Road (across from the Old Gatehouse), Lenzie Road (across from the 'Premier' shop), and Parkview Court (at Kirkintilloch Leisure Centre).

Without putting much thought into it, there is clearly not enough parking on the Laurel Avenue side

of the park for parents during school drop off/collection. The area of Laurel Avenue and the surrounding streets will be flooded with cars, and what once was a very quiet neighbourhood will now become the go-to area for parents.

Given the severe impact on all of the above points, I respectfully request that this planning application be refused and the school is cited on the existing site. You will undoubtedly be aware of the impact this planning application has caused to the local community and I urge you to take this into consideration as this planning application comes under review.

Please confirm receipt of this letter.

Yours Faithfully,

