

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: East Dunbartonshire Council are determined to destroy a protected green space at Whitegates Park, Kirkintilloch, which has a TPO in place to protect trees which can each absorb 20-40 kgs of carbon dioxide per year & which has 4.8m of carbon capturing & storing peat deposits as well as safely covering dangerous contaminated soils containing heavy metals if their plans to build the new Lenzie Academy on the park go ahead, instead of doing a tandem build on the current site. The cost to council tax payers will be outrageous because the estimated spend put to the council for approval was £85m, with about £51m coming from Scot Govt LEIP funding; the estimated cost is now £138m (& rising) with no increase in LEIP funding. The council will have to borrow the full amount of the cost & council tax payers will have to pay off the loan plus interest which is currently estimated at £145m (more than the cost of the actual build) while they wait for the LEIP funding to trickle in over 25 years, providing the council maintain & run the school under strict qualifying conditions.

Council officers who advised the elected members on the choice of site have been duplicitous in doing so as they have been proven through a freedom of information request to have privately discussed the value of the current school site to housing developers & even estimated how many & what type of houses could be built there & what the council could expect to receive in payment. The Whitegates Park site was previously considered for the location of an ASN school, now built at Waterside, & was discounted on the grounds that the site was unviable.

Building the new Lenzie Academy on the current site is entirely possible if the council build a school which meets the future demand of places for pupils who will live in the school's catchment area and not build to accommodate placement requests from outwith East Dunbartonshire.

The financial cost to council tax payers & the environmental cost will be considerable