

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

Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: Dear Planning Officer,

I wish to register my strong objection to the proposed erection of a new Lenzie Academy secondary school, including associated landscaping, car parking, sports pitches, recreational areas, road access, and infrastructure, on the site of Whitegates Park.

Whitegates Park is a valued, protected area of open green space that serves the local community in Kirkintilloch and surrounding areas, including families, children, dog walkers, and those seeking access to nature. The development would result in the permanent loss of this important community asset. My main material objections, grounded in planning policy and material considerations, are as follows:

- 1. Irreversible Loss of Protected Open Space and Greenspace** Whitegates Park is designated as protected open space under Policy 13 of the East Dunbartonshire Local Development Plan 2 (LDP2). It provides a well-utilised, accessible area of natural greenspace with mature trees, wetland habitats, and biodiversity value. Building a large secondary school (for approximately 1,400 pupils) would cover virtually the entire site, eliminating this public amenity. The council's own earlier assessments (including pre-2022 feasibility work) highlighted the significant loss of community-accessible open space as a major constraint. Replacement open space offers (e.g., elsewhere in the area) are inadequate to compensate for the loss of this established, centrally located park, which supports physical and mental wellbeing in line with national planning policies on greenspace protection (e.g., Scottish Planning Policy and Creating Places).
- 2. Concerns Over Ground Contamination and Site Suitability** Historical site investigations (notably from 2018, when the park was previously considered for school use) identified toxic and phytotoxic risks from shallow soils, peat deposits, and potential contamination, deeming the site unsuitable for development due to "significant potential for adverse environmental impact"