

Planning

Sent: 30 March 2026 13:50
To: Planning
Subject: Objection to Planning application TP/ED/26/0104

To: The Planning Authority, East Dunbartonshire Council

Date: 29 March 2026

Planning Reference TP/ED/26/0104

Proposal New Lenzie Academy build- Whitegates Park, Lenzie

With regards to the above planning application, I wish to object to the proposal to erect a secondary school on the existing Whitegates park for the following reasons:

- A flawed consultation process, the council have not been open and transparent throughout this selection process, they have not consulted in good time with other stakeholders and have treated local residents with contempt and total disregard.
- The erection of the proposed new school on the site of Whitegates park will remove the only park in the Lenzie area and as a result will be extremely detrimental to all the residents who use this area. This will include children and the elderly which flies in the face of all government advice on health and wellbeing and does not provide sufficient justification to override policies protecting such land under NPF4 and LDP2.
- There is no compelling publicly available information why this site was chosen over alternative, brownfield or non-designated locations as required by NPPF4. The failure of which totally undermines the entire application.
- The council Education consultation was flawed in the fact that they asked if they wanted a new school not the loss of a park and the analysis cannot be used to claim community backing of the loss of the park.
- Whitegates Park is designated open space within the Local Development Plan and the proposal would remove this valued community greenspace entirely, contrary to policy which requires open space to be protected unless clear evidence shows alternatives have been fully and robustly assessed – this has not been demonstrated.
- It will remove established trees (with a tree preservation order) and wildlife habitat against East Dunbartonshire own policies and their statement that protected trees make a positive contribution to the surrounding areas in terms of visual amenity and biodiversity, and landscape value. The area supports a range of wildlife and forms part of the wider environment and includes bats and birds of conservation concern.
- No thought has been given to the impact on the local roads around the proposed site and the safety of the current residents and the potential children. The access roads will not cope with the extra volume of traffic and any access off Initiative Road will be dangerous to all users.

- There is known problems with drainage and ground condition at the park and as the site discharges into the Luggie Water on onward to the River Kelvin, which already depends on flood defences. The effect of Climate change is predicted to cause more than twice the number of floods to occur by 2080 and the developers flood screening assertion that the site is not vulnerable contradicts the SEPA flood maps and historical records and is misleading,
- The proposed site was previously looked at in 2018 for construction of a school and this was rejected due to toxic soil contamination, which is still present and the removal of this will be required to build the proposed building, but the removal will cause more potential contamination to the surrounding area.
- In March 2021 the councils own planning service appraisal investigation's verdict was the site was "unviable" due to 4.8m of deep peat and hazardous ground conditions. The council's own reports (Curtins Consulting, 2025) confirm severe contamination of the site including Lead 1,400mg/kg, which is over 4 times the school threshold of 310g, a know carcinogen Benzo(a)pyrene found to be above the safety levels, Asbestos and nickel.

I have lived in Lenzie for the last 35 years and have used Whitegates park at least 2 or 3 times a week and I am disgusted that the council are considering building a new school on the park when there are other options available, which should have been considered years ago and I strongly request that the Council refuse this application.

