

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: I strongly object to this proposal. Whitegates Park (erroneously described as "Middlemuir Road, Lenzie" in the application) is a protected green space and should not be developed for many reasons, including:-

1. The land is contaminated with heavy metals, asbestos and radon gas is present. A report obtained from Mason Evans in 2018 confirms the position and this report has never been rejected by the Council. Best advice indicates that land of this nature should be left undisturbed and undeveloped. It is reported that mitigation works will be required at a cost of many millions of pounds. I have no confidence that the Council would deal with this hazard responsibly as it has exhibited a lack of understanding of the complexity and the risks involved.
2. The Park and surrounding areas are known to be at risk of flooding, extensive local flooding took place in 2002, the development of the Park would exacerbate this problem.
3. The Park is one of the few remaining open spaces within the locality and supports a wide range of wildlife and the biodiversity of the area would be severely depleted if the application proceeds.
4. The Park contains peatland which acts as a carbon store. The development of the Park would contribute to climate change and would be a failure to address the issues caused by the climate emergency. The loss of the peatland would also increase the flooding risks to adjoining properties.
5. The application is for an unsuitable size of development in an inappropriate location. The infrastructure of the surrounding areas would not be able to cope with the increased volume of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
6. The application is in direct conflict with the Council's Local Plan and policies to protect open green spaces. Further, no satisfactory explanation has been provided to date by the Council as to why other more suitable and less costly options were overlooked by the Council as sites for a replacement school.