
Climate and Environmental Sustainability Concerns

objectives.

the loss of an established green space appears inconsistent with these governments are promoting biodiversity protection and nature recovery, and disturbance to biodiversity. At a time when both national and local wildlife. Large-scale development would inevitably result in habitat loss Whitegates Park contains mature¹ trees, natural habitats, and supports local

Urban green spaces play a key role in carbon storage, cooling urban environments, improving air quality, and supporting climate resilience. Removing a substantial green area for development would reduce these environmental benefits and contribute to increased urbanisation of the area.

Surface Water Drainage and Flood Risk

Green spaces such as Whitegates Park play an important role in absorbing rainfall and reducing surface water runoff. Replacing permeable land with buildings, car parks, and hard surfaces increases the risk of surface water flooding in surrounding residential areas. In light of increasing extreme weather events, protecting natural drainage areas is increasingly important.

Traffic Congestion and Road Safety

A secondary school of this size would significantly increase traffic levels in surrounding residential streets, particularly during peak drop-off and pick-up times. The local road network will struggle to accommodate this additional traffic safely. Increased congestion will create safety concerns for pedestrians, cyclists, and local residents.

Impact on Residential Amenity

The proposed development would introduce significantly higher levels of activity, noise, and traffic in an area currently used primarily for recreation and green space. This could negatively impact the quality of life for nearby residents.

Concerns Regarding Site Suitability

Concerns have been raised about potential ground contamination and the extent of remediation required to make the site suitable for development. If significant remediation is necessary, this may represent an inefficient use of public funds and raises questions about whether the site is appropriate for a school environment.

Need to Properly Consider Alternative Sites

It is important that all reasonable alternatives are fully explored before building on valuable public parkland. Redevelopment or rebuilding on the existing Myrtle Avenue site should be carefully reconsidered. Many

