

Planning

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 March 2026 09:41
To: Planning
Subject: TP/ED/26/0104 - Whitegates Park development

Having attempted to leave a comment on the EDC website about the new Lenzie Academy (and having failed), I thought I would email my thoughts instead.

[REDACTED]

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY - My main concern about the siting of Lenzie Academy has to do with transparency - or rather the lack of it - on East Dunbartonshire District Council's part. The reasoning behind any decisions that have been made has been opaque at best and there is evidence of some EDC attempts to prevent damaging information from surfacing.

LACK OF CONSULTATION BEFORE DECISION - We, the residents of Middlemuir Road and the adjacent residential streets, were only made aware that the new Lenzie Academy was to be sited at Whitegates Park after the decision had been taken. It is best practice in these circumstances to give local people a say in any major development decisions that will affect them. Only now, however, are we to be granted a say in what is happening.

CONSPIRACY OR COCK-UP? - Everywhere one looks in this proposal there is evidence of either conspiracy or incompetence. The site was previously (2018) considered unsuitable for the purposes of building a school because of underground contamination connected to heavy industry. The 2018 report by EDC technical staff was suppressed in that its findings were not made available to councillors having to make the decision on a site for Lenzie Academy a few years later. The [Feb/March] 2025 investigation was conducted after a period of heavy rain; you may or may not know that waterlogged peat gives off very little methane.

RESIDENTIAL STREETS AND PARKING - In similar vein, the traffic impact study was undertaken during a period of decreased usage (exam leave and holidays). It was almost bound to show that the narrow residential streets could cope with increased traffic.

As a resident of Middlemuir Road, however, I have ongoing experience of how few parked cars it takes to obstruct the road. The house opposite ours is visited daily by parents dropping off their children for music lessons. My experience suggests that parents are more concerned about the convenience of their kids than the safety of other road users. They frequently block our driveway and park inconsiderately. Two years ago, a mother parked opposite our driveway and sat in her car texting and apparently unconcerned while I reversed into her dark-coloured vehicle. She claimed against my insurance for the damage I had caused due to her inconsiderate parking.

Many modern parents seem to be very eager to shelter their offspring from inclement weather. That being the case, I have no doubt that the increase in the number of vehicles will be far greater than your conservative estimates - especially on wet days.

CURRENT SITE CONSIDERATIONS - It is curious that EDC seems to have dismissed the idea of a tandem build on the existing Lenzie Academy site without proper explanation. The fact that the site has been quietly investigated for its suitability for an upmarket housing development has led many in the community to ask whether a deal has been struck with a developer. No matter how much the sale of the present LA site makes, it cannot possibly cover the cost of a £138m build.