

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 20/1496/FUL

Address: Harrodian School Lonsdale Road Barnes London SW13 9QN

Proposal: Erection of a two storey with basement level sports and cultural centre on the current tennis courts site and associated hard and soft landscaping. Relocation of the tennis courts to the current sports pitch. 2 x one storey changing rooms with shower and WC facilities to the east of the current car park. Proposed boundary treatments and hardstanding for access from the car park.

Comments Made By

Name: Mrs C E Redler

Address: 5 Belgrave Road Barnes London SW13 9NS

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: OBJECTION TO Harrodian 'Sports Hall' Planning – 20/1496/FUL

As a long-time resident of Belgrave Road, I strongly object to the proposed plans submitted by the Harrodian school for their 'Sports and Cultural Centre'.

I have seen the school grow from a small school located in the original single building of the old Harrods sports centre to a huge school. The Harrods sports centre was built on MOL and the expansion of the school thus far has already gone far beyond the original intentions of the designation for sports facilities. How was the removal of MOL designation on this new proposed site done without notifying any interested parties such as neighbours? Does the Council not have responsibility for doing so prior to granting of the removed status? Now moving the tennis courts to a new MOL site is just pushing this development further.

Having had two children attend the Harrodian I understand the need for indoor sports facilities. However, this huge building goes far beyond those needs, far and away the largest structure anywhere in the vicinity. The Harrodian is a BUSINESS whose goal is to maximise profit. This new building is aimed at letting it out for profit with no regard for the residential character of the environment. We are accustomed to and accept the noise from a few events per year held in the marquees. This new 'Centre' will generate noise and traffic for 75 hours per week. And will cause late night noise for many nights of the year. This is not acceptable in a residential area, and the acoustical report is derisory.

The location of the new building, even if reduced in size, is far too close to the boundaries of the neighbouring houses. In addition, the proposed huge basement will cause massive displacement of groundwater which is not addressed. I investigated having a basement built under our property but did not go ahead because of the complications arising from the tidal nature of the ground water being so close to the river. There is good reason this part of Barnes was not built on originally!!

Finally, and very importantly, the proposed access to the building site via Belgrave Road and small congested cul-de-sac is ludicrous. The road is constantly full of parked cars making it extremely difficult to be safe. There are many, many children living on the road who on weekends and after school and in the summer holidays play together safely out on the road creating a sense of community. We all chose to live on Belgrave Road precisely because it is a cul-de-sac. Why should a profit-making business eliminate this?

Furthermore, there are dozens of children and their parents and carers who access the playground on Suffolk Road where in theory all these huge construction lorries will be attempting to turn into Suffolk Road and then Belgrave Road. This is a wonderful children's facility built in a relatively quiet safe area, and it has encouraged many local elderly people to use the

'dog field' to walk by the provision of more benches, why endanger the young and old? I know several older 'less stable on their feet' people who use Suffolk Road recreation ground to exercise and met people.

There are many potential access points on a site as large as Harrodian without endangering the lives of local children and ourselves.

In strongly urge the Planning Committee to reject this application by the Harrodian School.

It is too large, misuses MOL land, creates massive groundwater problems, will cause further noise issues and will cause dangerous traffic conditions for Belgrave Road residents during construction and also users of the Suffolk Road Recreation Ground. Please please please do not let this go ahead.

Thank You

C E Redler
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