

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 and new all-weather 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: Mr. John Stewart

Address: 12 Belgrave Road Barnes London SW13 9NS

Comments

Type of comment: Object to the proposal

Comment: I reiterate my objections (and those of my Belgrave Road neighbours) posted in January 2021 to this project - most notably the size and scale of the proposed "sports hall" and its proximity to residential properties - such that it cannot fail but to significantly impinge on the lives of its neighbours and negatively impact their enjoyment of their own properties. While the school may need additional sports facilities the scale of these proposals is far greater than is needed to provide an indoor sports hall.

It should also be remembered that the school is a purely for profit organisation, and hence its argument that there is no alternative location for the facilities could perhaps be rephrased to say that they have over-expanded student numbers relative to their facilities (in order to maximise profit) and are now seeking to build more, and of a scale that will provide additional revenue opportunities, to the detriment of their neighbours.

It appears that the council has selectively disclosed its legal advice to the school (of how else would the school have known to amend an application that had already been approved). If this is not the case, can the planning committee categorically state this at the beginning of the committee meeting, and if they have, can they explain why they have done this, but refused to share that advice with the local community.

I do not understand why the committee sees the site access proposals as outside their scope, as these are clearly integral to the application. As my previous comments state, the disruption, danger and chaos that would be caused by using Belgrave Road as an access route would be immense, and I see it as negligent of the committee not to address this issue. Furthermore, the applicants statement on the impracticality of using Lonsdale Road is incredibly weak, with many of the points raised by the school are even more applicable to Belgrave/Suffolk Roads.

I also question why there has not been any active consultation with local residents by either the applicant or the council. Finally, I fully concur with the comments made by Mr Paul Tapper in his letters to the Planning Officer on 15th and 23rd January.

I urge the committee to reject this application.