

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 22/3004/FUL

Address: Kneller Hall Royal Military School Of Music Kneller Road Twickenham TW2 7DU

Proposal: The demolition of existing modern buildings on the site and the conversion of and extensions to Kneller Hall and other ancillary buildings associated with the former royal military music school to a day school (Use Class F1), together with the construction of associated new purpose-built buildings including teaching space, indoor sports facilities, sporting pavilion and forest school building. Alterations to the existing playing fields, to include an all weather pitch with fencing, flood lighting to existing tennis courts, sustainability measures and re-turfing. Provision of a new access from Whitton Dene, and other ancillary works including parking areas, hard and soft landscaping, lighting, access alterations and energy centre. Internal and external alterations to Kneller Hall and the curtilage listed buildings to facilitate the day school use, including demolition and rebuilding of single storey extension to the west wing of Kneller Hall, extension to the Band Practice Hall and re-opening of Whitton Dene site entrance.

Comments Made By

Name: Whitton Ward Councillors Mrs. Jo Humphreys

Address: 8 Talma Gardens Twickenham TW2 7RD

Comments

Type of comment: Make a general observation

Comment: Submission Part 5 from Whitton ward councillors, Cllr Humphreys, Cllr O'Carroll & Cllr Sehra

Community Use Agreement contd...

Unlit outdoor facilities (Football/Rugby/Hockey/MUGA/Cricket)

The offer is term time Mon-Fri 17.30-20.30hrs from April to September and we understand that this is because floodlights will not be permitted. However it unfortunately means that once you've taken out school holidays the facilities are only available during the week for 14 weeks of the year, and mostly outside of the football/rugby/hockey season, when presumably the area will most likely be marked out as a cricket pitch.

We therefore believe that this means there should be more availability at weekends, which currently would only be 09.00-13.00hrs during term time. Our suggestion is that availability should be extended to include the afternoons.

Lit outdoor facilities and the indoor facilities (Tennis/Sports Hall/Swimming Pool)

During the week the facilities really need to be available until 22.00hrs, otherwise working adults either playing sport as an individual or as part of a club will not get much opportunity to use them. This view has been confirmed in one of the reports by Badminton England who advise that there is a need for badminton courts, but unless the school extends the hours these facilities won't help address the shortage. Whitton Sports Centre for example is open from 5-10pm and Pools in the Park until 9.45pm and we'd like to see a similar offer here. In relation to Tennis there are very few floodlit courts in the area and if lighting is to be permitted this should be mitigated by courts being available until much later, especially in the winter when other courts have to close around 4pm.

With regards to weekends, we feel the hours should be extended to include the afternoons. Whitton Sports Centre is open 9am to 6pm and we feel a similar offer would be suitable.

School Holidays.

Based on dates on the school website, holidays account for 17 weeks of the year and currently the CUA is suggesting 9-4

Monday-Friday for 10 of the 17 weeks. This means that for 30% of the year there will be no evening or weekend availability and as a result working adults will have nothing available to them for a significant proportion of the year. We believe this needs addressing by offering some weekend hours and weekday evenings during school holidays.

Finally with regards to accessibility we'd like to see things like the tennis courts, basketball/netball courts, sports hall and swimming pool be available to book on an ad hoc basis by individual residents rather than just being available to organised clubs, whose membership fees can often make participation unaffordable.