

Comments for Planning Application 126431/FO/2020

Application Summary

Application Number: 126431/FO/2020

Address: Site South Of Sportcity Way, East Of Joe Mercer Way, West Of Alan Turing Way And North Of The Ashton Canal At The Etihad Campus Manchester

Proposal: Erection of a multi-use arena (Use Class D2) (61082 sqm) with a partially illuminated external facade together with ancillary retail/commercial uses (Classes A1, A3 and A4), with highways, access, servicing, landscaping, public realm and other associated works.

Case Officer: Jennifer Atkinson

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: Not Available

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: Having been to concerts and events at Manchester Arena for over 20 years I would be devastated to see anything open in Manchester that could jeopardise the existence of the current arena. The current arena is without doubt the venue with the best views I have ever experienced and I have probably attended over 60 events/gigs there and 20-30 at other venues around the UK. The location is excellent and ensures that event/concert goers mostly use public transport to get to it with Victoria train station and Exchange Square tram stops close by, as well as Shudehill bus station within walking distance. This means residents are rarely significantly inconvenienced by traffic on gig/event nights. I can't say this about the football or concerts taking place at the Etihad which frequently causes major traffic disruption in itself and I fear having a second arena in the Eastlands area would make this impossible. It also already isn't easy for disabled visitors to attend events around the Etihad campus without being charged hefty parking fees and I feel this would not be any different for this new proposed arena. The experience for disabled visitors at the current arena in contrast is very easy with cheap public car parks nearby, metre parking which is free with a disabled badge, and assistance within Victoria station for disabled passengers who are accessing the arena. I also feel taking the events out to Eastlands will harm the businesses and economy in the city centre. More people may be reliant on services at the actual arena for food and drink prior to events as well as during them, whereas now, event/concert goers often eat in restaurants or cafes in the city centre such as at The Printworks or Corn Exchange and shop in the Arndale before they attend the arena. Similarly I imagine some of the city centre hotels may lose out of this rival arena were allowed to open as I cannot see there being the need for two such large scale venues in this one city. Manchester Arena is iconic. I appreciate it will now always be linked to the terror attack which took place on May 22nd a couple of years ago but I also think it is

at the heart of the growth of the city. As Mancunians we have been resilient and supported individuals and the city to recover and start moving forward from this atrocity and rise like a phoenix from the ashes, which Manchester arena has begun to do and wants to continue to do with the proposed changes it is making. This doesn't need to be jeopardised by a rival venue running it out of business and taking business away from the city centre which has struggled enough in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. We should support the current arena to improve and continue to meet the needs of Mancunians and visitors going forward as it has done since it opened as the Nynex arena all those years ago.