

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: Manchester does not need two major Arena venues, and having two would have a detrimental effect on both venues; arguably making neither commercially viable.

I used to live in Manchester and my wife is a Mancunian. Therefore, although we live on Merseyside we have regularly traveled to Manchester for events and family for over 40 years. This has included events at the MEN Arena and football matches at the Etihad Stadium. I believe that the perspective of customers from outside Manchester itself is very important, because we are the people who come into the city and spend our money there.

There is a clear issue here, which is that it is very easy and comfortable to travel to the MEN Arena, particularly by public transport. It is after all next to Victoria station which means that people can readily get to the venue by train from the west, north and east - a genuine 'green' advantage. By comparison the proposed Arena by the Etihad will have little quality public transport (and certainly no convenient train station) - you only have to go to a City home game to see the cars and buses at a standstill, and parking is not good; it can take over an hour to get away from the ground after a match. Consequently many people walk out to the Etihad from Manchester city centre on a match day because of this situation. What you have to bear in mind is that football fans might be prepared to do this to see their beloved team play - but people who want to attend a gig by a music artist (who will no doubt be playing at other Arenas on their tour, which might make more sense in the circumstances for travelling customers) are unlikely to be prepared to do the same on a dark winter's night (which is when a lot of gigs take place). The proposed Arena presents a 'green' problem as far as I can see, given that the capacity means that more people would be in attendance than at many football grounds in the Premier League!

The redevelopment of the MEN Arena would present a far, far better long-term proposition.

Many thanks for giving the opportunity to make these comments