



Jennifer Atkinson <j.atkinson@manchester.gov.uk>

Comments on 126431/FO/2020 and 126431/AO/20201 message

[REDACTED]
To: j.atkinson@manchester.gov.uk

18 April 2020 at 16:47

Dear Madam,

My name is [REDACTED], I live on [REDACTED], near the area that will see built the new arena.

I was unfortunately out of town in December for the consultation, so thank you for sending the letter to the residents of the area, and allow me to raise my concerns with this project.

I will start by stating that I am not particularly a fan of the whole arena project. It seems redundant for Manchester that already has one arena and two stadiums, not to mention other concert halls in town. I believe this project only aims at giving tax breaks to people who should be paying their taxes, as it has been the case with the too many building projects we've seen in and around Manchester for the past few years.

I also know there is no way for citizens such like me to stop this project, so I will now raise more realistic concerns:

- visual pollution: will the LED screens and illuminated totems be working 24/7? Seeing the night sky is barely impossible already, but adding these devices will only make it worse. The Etihad area, except for match or concert nights, is relatively quiet and we have the chance to have relative darkness at night. From that standpoint, the new building will degrade our quality of life.

- environment: there are unfortunately no legislation in the UK when it comes to energy savings for empty buildings, and I assume that the new arena will be heavily lit and heated day and night, even when unused. With the current global context and the scientific predictions, such a project appears to be foolish and dangerous.

- Traffic: the area is not conceived for heavy traffic, and we've been seeing many congestions already during football season, leading to loud and unpleasant noises, as well as pollution. Will you be replanning the roads as well to make sure the area can absorb the traffic?

- Cleanliness: Manchester is a dirty city, due to lack of public funding and a complete absence of education to the public. This area is not dirtier than others but it is already terrible. Take the metro between Etihad and Holt Town, you will only see tons of rubbish. I do want to believe that a new building and increased traffic will push the council to clean the area, and I do hope they will also consider pushing to Holt Town and Phillips Park.

Thank you again for allowing me to raise my concerns, I hope they will be taken into consideration.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]