

Comments for Planning Application 142671/FO/2025

Application Summary

Application Number: 142671/FO/2025

Address: 136 St Werburgh's Road Manchester M21 8UQ

Proposal: Change of use of a gym (Class E) to create 3 no. residential apartments.

Case Officer: Holly Wright

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: Not Available

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I write to formally object to the proposed redevelopment of Little Box Gym], located at St Werburghs Road into residential flats.

Little Box Gym is not just a gym - it is a vital and beloved community hub with deep roots in promoting women's health, confidence, and wellbeing. As one of the few inclusive, women-led fitness spaces in the area, it has created a safe, welcoming environment where women of all ages and backgrounds come together to support their health and empower each other. Its closure would be an irreplaceable loss to our community fabric.

Key reasons for this objection include:

- Community Wellbeing: Little Box Gym provides essential health and wellness services, including fitness classes, personal training, and nutrition advice. These offerings promote preventative care and reduce pressure on local healthcare services.
- Social Cohesion and Safety: The gym fosters strong local relationships and combats social isolation, especially among older women and young mothers. It provides a safe space that many rely on for their emotional and physical wellbeing.
- Cultural and Economic Contribution: As an independent, women-owned business, the gym contributes to the local economy and champions diversity, inclusivity, and entrepreneurial spirit.
- Lack of Equivalent Facilities: There is currently no like-for-like alternative in the area that meets the specific needs of women in such an inclusive, community-based setting. Redeveloping the space into housing would erase a service that simply cannot be replicated.

While the demand for housing is acknowledged, it should not come at the expense of essential community spaces. It is possible to create a vibrant, sustainable neighbourhood that values both homes and wellbeing - not one at the cost of the other.

I urge the planning committee to reject this application and instead explore options to protect and enhance this vital facility, recognising its unique and irreplaceable value to the community