

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: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: I'm currently a member of Little Box Gym and want to object to the proposed change of use at 136 St Werburgh's Road.

Little Box Gym is unique in Chorlton, and is an extremely valuable community resource. If it were to close then the closest gyms would be either in Stretford or at Hough End. Chorlton needs a gym more than it needs 3 more flats. More than just a gym though, Little Box Gym is the most inclusive gym I've ever encountered, with the most diverse range of ages, genders and body shapes. All are genuinely welcome. This is particularly important considering the recent research suggesting the importance of strength training for older women, which many don't do as they are put off by the atmosphere of the weight section of more mainstream gyms. Having spoken to Sarah it's also clear that the gym is very active in the local community, including with Chorlton Park Primary.

While I'm not personally familiar with the other businesses that run out of the premises I can only see it as a loss to Chorlton if we lose them to gain such a small amount of additional residential housing. There are already the developments at Beech Road park and the old precinct, we shouldn't be reducing the services available.

In addition, 136 St. Werburgh's Road is a Grade II listed building with significant heritage value. Converting it to flats would strip it of its role as a living, active part of the community. I urge you to reject this application to protect a space that benefits our local community.