

Comments for Planning Application 142986/VO/2025

Application Summary

Application Number: 142986/VO/2025

Address: Field Of Os South Of Claridge Road Manchester

Proposal: City Council Development - Erection of modular-building, including associated landscaping to provide a flexible space for youth and community activities (Class F.2)

Case Officer: Steven McCoombe

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: Not Available

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Neighbour

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: As a local resident I think there are several issues surrounding this application.

1. All planning permission documents we have been posted or that are on the lampposts etc in the surrounding area state this is for a scout hut. The night before last a member of the council came to our house and said this is actually a community centre for children ages 11-18 and will involve half the field and the formation of 2-3 car parking spaces. All the information therefore given to locals and that is visible around the plot still detail the wrong planning application, so people aren't aware of the actual plans.

2. Parking on Claridge road is already difficult due to local shops, local primary schools and man united games. We do not have residents parking. The gentleman from the council said this would host events 3-4 evenings a week which will only exacerbate this problem, particularly during a man united game. I often return from nights shifts and am unable to park close to my home, and believe should this be allowed to go ahead you would have to bring in residents parking permits which would impact both local shops and school traffic.

3. Oswald primary school have recently sent out documents saying the other half of this project is for them to build a forest school- this is not present on the planning application. This will result in the complete loss of a community green space. Additionally, st Hilda's primary school at the end of Oswald road are currently offering a free forest school, so this is not something the community is missing. Oswald road primary school have a wooded play area within the school, so I would like to know how this forest school is going to be used differently to that. Additionally, will the local community be able to use the space? Will children still be able to play there on evenings/ weekends and school holidays?

4. I was told by the gentleman from the council that this space is registered as a school sports field- an indoor community centre for teenagers and a forest school do not amount to a sports field and will result in the loss of people being able to use this space for sports and recreational activities, as so many do on a daily basis.

5. This piece of green space is hugely important to the local community. The proposition of a youth center will, in my opinion, actually take away a space for teenagers. At the moment I see young adults use this space after school and at the weekends to sit and talk to friends. Building over the space will lose this meeting place for them. I think a huge issue at the moment is lack of outdoor space- particularly for young adults who perhaps have a large amount of screen time. We will be taking away an outside area for them to meet.

6. With large scale building of flats at the old leisure centre site and over the new shopping complex many many new residents to this area of Chorlton will be desperate for green space. Inner city green space should be preserved as much as possible, and this is a community hub for young people, dog owners, sports boot camp groups and locals. If the pandemic and recent research into mental health taught us anything then green space and regular exercise is vital to a communities mental health and well being, and this will be a huge loss to the community.

Whilst I think a youth center for teenagers is a nice idea, I absolutely object the loss of a cherished park to do so. There are many abandoned buildings in Chorlton that this could be situated in, or if this needs to be a new build there are large portions of land in both Longford park and Chorlton green. Choosing the field of os as the site for this will decimate the only green space we have, hugely exacerbate resident parking and traffic issues and will also likely drive away the teenage population who use this space daily, rather than help them.

I feel the council have been disingenuous regarding this planning application, as have not corrected the details on any of the information sheets situated around the park (despite having someone at the site on Tuesday evening who could have done so). The gentleman who came told us there was time pressure on the funding, and I feel this is why this is trying to be snuck through without proper thought, consultation with locals or honesty about these plans to the local community.