

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 am writing to formally object to the proposed change of use of 136 St. Werburgh's Road, Chorlton, from its current use to residential flats.

As a local resident and part of the community directly connected to this building, I am deeply concerned about the loss of essential community facilities and the negative impact this development would have on multiple small, local businesses and the wider neighbourhood.

136 St. Werburgh's Road is home to a small but long-standing, family-run gym, operated by a local mother and daughter team, which provides affordable health and fitness services to the local community. It also offers local employment, including a part-time Saturday job for a local teen and an apprenticeship for a recent graduate of Chorlton High School.

Beyond the gym, the building is a shared space for a number of other small, independent businesses that provide vital health and wellbeing services to the local community. These include: physiotherapy, hairdressing, health and beauty therapy, singing lessons, therapeutic counselling, Indian dance workshops, a meeting place for the MileShy club, yoga and pilates classes.

These services positively and directly contribute to the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of the community, and many are not easily replaced or relocated. The proposed change of use would mean the loss of a multi-purpose wellbeing space, designed by and for the local community. This is not simply a commercial premises - it is a community hub, run by local people for local people. a diverse ecosystem of self-employed professionals, sole traders, and community-focused practitioners. These businesses rely on the affordability and flexibility of the space to operate. A change to residential use would displace the businesses and sole traders that use the space, threatening their livelihoods and disrupting services relied upon by residents of all ages.

I would also like to object on the grounds that 136 is a listed building and remains one of the few surviving elements of Chorlton's rural past. The proposal to alter its use risks undermining its historical significance. Heritage assets like this should be preserved not just structurally, but socially, by ensuring they remain integrated into and valued by the communities they serve

In summary, I respectfully urge Manchester City Council to reject this application for the following reasons:

- The loss of a vital community facility offering health, wellbeing and creative services
- The displacement of local businesses, harming local employment and social enterprise
- The impact on the listed building's heritage value and its role in local history
- The lack of equivalent local spaces to relocate these services or preserve this local community

Regards,

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