

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 object to the proposed change of use at 136 St. Werburgh's Road.

This building is a vital community hub, home to a local, family-owned gym and other small, independent businesses that offer important services to the local community. These businesses support the health and wellbeing of local residents and contribute to the local economy. Many will be forced to close or relocate if this proposal is approved.

Many users of this gym are not 'typical' gym-goers; many of us are over 60 (and some well over 70), and several users have physical and learning disabilities. I feel it would be difficult for many users to feel comfortable and confident enough to exercise in large, noisy council gyms or privately-run chain gyms, or to find a personal trainer who understands the varied needs and abilities of the gym users outside the Little Box Gym. I have personally benefited from having a personal trainer who is also a physiotherapist working at the premises - she is able to tailor my exercise programme to my physical requirements caused by various medical issues. I would find it difficult to find such a person in another gym, or feel comfortable - as a 65-year-old woman with mobility issues - exercising in a large, noisy gym surrounded by other users.

In addition, 136 St. Werburgh's Road is a Grade II listed building with significant heritage value. Chorlton has more than enough flats already, and converting 136 to flats would strip it of its role as a living, active part of the community. The Little Box Gym is a unique and well-loved place, providing vital services to the community. It belongs to Chorlton's tradition of local, independent, family-run businesses that contribute to the Chorlton and Whalley Range economy, and make Chorlton such a desirable place to live, study and work.

I urge you to reject this application to protect a space that benefits the health and wellbeing of so many members of our local community.