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Barnet Council - Consultations

Via email: BarnetKingGeorgeVMasterPlan@barnet.gov.uk

Reference (please quote if replying) TV/CC/61063

5th August 2019

Dear Sir

Consultation: Barnet Playing Fields & King George V Playing Fields

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to comment on this consultation. First of all, I would like to endorse and support the response submitted by the Barnet Society dated 2nd December 2018. I have called on residents in some of the roads nearest the playing fields and this response reflects a number of the comments made.

I believe that parks and open spaces should be among the highest priorities for the council. They contribute significantly to the quality of life of local residents. They are a key reason why people to move to Barnet. With the expected increase in population, they will become ever more important, not least because many new homes being built either have small gardens or none at all.

I have always placed a very high priority on protecting the green belt in Barnet and defending our local green spaces. While I welcome the council's objective of providing better facilities in this area for my constituents, I share the Barnet Society's concern about the size of the development and the scale of the new buildings proposed, not least because this is green belt land.

One of the main concerns raised by constituents are the plans for the skate park behind Fairfield Way. I very much oppose the idea of a skate park being built. I share the view of constituents who have contacted me that there is no need for this and that it is too close to a residential area and will be the cause of noise nuisance. I am also worried that if the skate park goes ahead, there might be a request for floodlights in the future.

I note the Barnet Society's comment about the pitches at the southern end being fenced off which, they believe is unnecessary. Also some residents told me that they feel that there are too many sports pitches crammed into the area which will leave no space for dog walkers.

Additionally, residents are already deeply worried about the extra traffic generated by the new Ark school and they fear that these new facilities will significantly increase these problems.

The Barnet Society also queries the need for all these facilities given that one of the conditions of the Ark Academy's planning permission was to make their outdoor and indoor sports facilities available to the community.

I was also worried to be informed by the Barnet Society that the local schools appear not to have been contacted about this project. If that is the case, I believe is a serious omission as surely it would be expected that their pupils would use these facilities? I hope, therefore, that they will be given the opportunity to submit their views to this consultation so the council can gauge the level of local support.

Lastly, I am concerned to note that no council funding is guaranteed for this project in the future. If that is the case there is a danger that the new facilities will fall into disrepair. This would be a further reason to scale back what is proposed.

In the light of what I have set out, I oppose the plans put forward. I hope the council will think again and come up with a revised set of proposals which retain more of the open space feel which the site currently provides. I would be grateful if my comments could be taken into account when further decisions are made.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Theron Vu'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.