



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

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18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**14/04624/FULL1 - Creation of 3G artificial turf sports pitch at Kemnal Technology College**

In advance of the Plans Sub-Committee meeting on 2 April 2015, I write to place on record my objection to application 14/04624/FULL1 to build an all-weather sports pitch on the grounds of Kemnal Technology College.

I am aware that many local residents have already raised objections to this application, and I support their concerns that a development of this nature would have an unreasonable impact on the amenity of neighbouring households.

This is an unacceptable intensification of use close to residential properties. It is clear from the supporting documentation that the proposal goes well beyond a simple enhancement of facilities for students of the College itself, for which I would have much sympathy.

The applicant's own Design and Access Statement estimates that up to 128 participants would be on site at any one time, and the FA and Football Foundation's guidance suggests that a funded pitch of this kind would be expected to provide at least 85 hours of use over a 7 day week. This would generate unacceptable noise, light pollution and traffic, which are well set out in the objections made by neighbouring residents.

I would additionally point out that the proximity of the pitch to neighbouring houses is at some 50 meters, significantly less than the minimum distance recommended in the FA's Floodlighting Guidance notes as sufficient to prevent unacceptable light pollution. Moreover, the proposed operating hours, especially on weekday evenings, and additional traffic this would cause, would create unacceptable disturbance given the close proximity of the pitch to a residential area.

Finally, I also have very serious concerns that there has been inadequate consultation and engagement with local residents. There appears to have been no attempt at consultation before the application was submitted, and it is unfortunate that no drawings were available at the public meeting, nor any technical appraisal of the light impact. Taken together, this appears to be contrary to the Council's own guidance on community involvement in planning application decisions.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate this letter to Members in advance of the Committee.

**Bob Neill MP**