

Comment received on planning application reference 43614/K

[SX3 reference R/2006/0877]

Site: The Woodlands School Broad Lane

Proposal: Installation of all weather and seasonal sports pitches

**Phone Number:02476465550**

***I am writing in objection to the proposed planning application to build 4 7-a-side football pitches on the following grounds based on the following arguments***

**Noise:**

***Whilst the noise levels may fall within an acceptable level for this type of facility the nature of the noise (as experienced from the recently opened 5-a-side facility on the same site) is completely unacceptable for a largely residential area. The current facility has proved to be a most unwelcome intrusion on the lives of the residents surrounding the Powerleague facility. The level of shouting, and profanity (as expected from groups of people playing competitive football) that can be regularly heard coming from does not provide a suitable atmosphere for the local residents to enjoy what was previously a relatively quiet life, a large proportion of these residents have young children who do not wish to have their children subjects to the type of language that can be heard coming from the football pitches.***

***The introduction of further football pitches which appear from the plans to be situated even closer to residential properties appears that it can only increase the misery that the facility is already bringing to peoples lives.***

***On looking at the plans it appears to be the intention to develop all the sporting facilities across the entire site of the school, and so the question should be asked why these additional pitches cannot***

***be located in the most South-East corner of the school a good distance away from any residential properties. It seems in hindsight that this would have been the more preferred setting for the recently open 5-a-side pitches too.***

***Parking:***

***I feel that very careful thought should be taken to the parking facilities, at present the car parking is woefully inadequate for the current 5-a-side football & gymnastics facility, which it appears still isn't running at full capacity. Cars are regularly parks on grass verges (which are signed as No Parking), clogging up the streets surrounding the facility car park and blocking peoples driveways etc. that again is completely unacceptable. It should be suggested that an additional 25+ parking spaces are required for the current facility, and that the provision of 4 7-a-side pitches would indicate a requirement for a further additional parking spaces in the region of 50+ spaces (14 players + 1 ref per pitch x 4 pitches), this should be considered a priority due to the current public feelings regarding parking at the facility.***

***Consultation with residents:***

***Some indication should be given to the public regarding the level of usage of the proposed plans, i.e. Through flow of customers, intentions of powerleague to hold further tournaments, hours of operation, what the general consensus of the facility is to the local residents before any planning is approved.***

***Many residents feel mislead by previous applications for development of the site and had they know of the intentions would have strongly objected to previous applications,***

***Wildlife:***

***There is also the issue of the facility being built within the 500metre zone of the Great Crested Newt colony, it has been stated that the construction of the pitches would be undertaken with the same controls as the Sports complex etc, but how can they predict what the long-term impact of the proposals will be? They probably didn't expect 'a bit of shouting' to be so unacceptable to the local residents. It is bad enough that green-belt land is being used for developments such as this but to endanger the habitat of a protected species is surely unacceptable particularly when the long-term goal is only one of commercial gain.***

From  
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