

Hillcroft Lacrosse Club

To the Planning Officer,

I am writing to OBJECT to the proposed site allocation, Merton Local Planning Consultation 2a 2020 for United Westminster Schools Site, Tamworth Lane, Mitcham, CR4 1DH, Local Plan/Mitcham Site Mi14, for the following reasons. We don't believe this site allocation meets with the criteria of National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 97

"Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements;

or

b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location;

or

c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use."

Therefore this does not meet one of the four tests of soundness, namely compliance with National Policy.

The application says the venue is unviable, but we disagree. The facilities at Tamworth Lane, Site Mi14 would suit our needs as a growing club and offers excellent opportunities which we would like to realise. Hillcroft Lacrosse Club have played locally since 1971, we've been looking for a "Home Ground" but had no idea that this playing facility was even available. There isn't signage at the venue to let potential clubs know that it was an option.

Since forming at Ernest Bevin School we have played at facilities in and around the borough, Lavender Park, Three Kings Piece, Haydons Road and presently at Imperial Sports Ground.

It would enable us to have the facility to develop a viable Juniors section, plus guarantee our Women's side can play at our home fields, something we don't presently have.

The bare bones of the site offer great potential to improve training facilities that could benefit the wider community. The Pavilion Changing rooms could enjoy development as part of the local amenity alongside our needs as a Sports Club.

We accept that the facilities will need some updating but this is predominantly due to lack of use and ongoing maintenance. The playing surface again can be returned to use relatively quickly. We view that we could be playing lacrosse at Tamworth Lane within the next year and provide the opportunity to support grassroots sports in the community.

Thank you for sharing the local plans for the United Westminster Schools Site, Mi14 and enabling us to object to the site allocation and to demonstrate why we feel that it's a great location for Hillcroft Lacrosse Club.

Yours Sincerely,

Hillcroft Lacrosse Club

Tooting & Mitcham Community Sports Club

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