

DC Admin

From:
Sent: 16 December 2024 16:43
To: DC Admin
Subject: Objection to Planning Application Reference: 2024/62/93346/W

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I am writing to object to the proposed replacement clubhouse for Netherton Junior Football Club at Coronation Field, Hawkroyd Bank, Netherton (Planning Application Reference: 2024/62/93346/W). As a resident _____, I have serious concerns about the development's impact on the local community, environment, and infrastructure.

While _____ improvements to the facilities are understandable, the scale and nature of the proposal are inappropriate for this location.

1. Traffic and Parking Issues

The current football events already cause significant disruptions, with parking spilling onto residential streets and creating congestion four days a week. This leads to safety risks for both pedestrians and drivers. The proposed expansion, including a bar and function room, will attract more visitors, worsening these problems. Existing parking and traffic management are inadequate, and this development does nothing to address the current issues. I can attach photos on request to demonstrate the current issues, such as significant traffic congestion, parking overflowing onto streets, and the overall disruption caused by football events.

2. Size and Design of the Clubhouse

The proposed building is excessively large, with a footprint of 198m² and a high corrugated steel roof that appears industrial and out of place in a residential and greenspace setting. The black steel cladding is stark and clashes with the natural environment, failing to integrate with the surrounding area. A smaller, more modest design that uses neutral materials and incorporates a green roof would better respect the character of the field and enhance biodiversity.

3. Function Room and Bar

The inclusion of a function room and bar is unnecessary and shifts the purpose of the field from a recreational area to a venue for non-sporting events. This will increase noise pollution, traffic, and disruption for residents. Removing these elements from the proposal would reduce the building's size and

limit its impact on the community. The focus should remain on providing essential facilities for sports rather than creating a commercial venue. The kitchen could be designed to serve hot drinks and other refreshments, potentially incorporating a hatch, rather than including a bar and function room.

4. Impact on Urban Greenspace

Coronation Field has long been a park for the local community, intended for diverse recreational use. Over time, the football club's activities have increasingly dominated the space, limiting its availability for other users. Further encroachment contradicts the principles of the Urban Greenspace designation, which aims to protect open spaces for all members of the community.

5. Environmental Concerns

The environmental impact of constructing a larger building is significant, particularly with materials like steel. Although solar panels are mentioned, the proposal lacks other meaningful sustainability measures. Incorporating a green roof would reduce runoff, improve insulation, and support local biodiversity. Additionally, noise pollution from increased events would harm the tranquillity of the area.

6. Community Usage and Events

The current volume of football events already causes frequent disturbances. Adding facilities like a bar and function room will inevitably lead to more events, further disrupting the quiet enjoyment of nearby homes. Limiting the scale of events and focusing on sports-related activities would ensure the field remains a community resource rather than a commercial venue.

7. Historical and Community Context

Coronation Field has been a community park for over a century, and this proposal risks alienating non-football users. Expanding the football club's dominance over the field disregards its historical purpose as a shared public amenity. The council must ensure the field remains inclusive and accessible to all.

Conclusion

While I support the improvement of essential facilities, the current proposal is excessive and poorly planned. I urge the council to consider a revised plan that:

- Removes the function room and bar.
- Reduces the building's size and height to align with the recreational and residential context.
- Addresses parking and traffic issues with effective management strategies.
- Incorporates a green roof and other environmentally sustainable features.
- Ensures the field's availability for all community members, not just one group.

Thank you for considering my objections. I trust that the council will prioritise the interests of the local community and the preservation of Coronation Field as an inclusive and accessible greenspace.

Yours faithfully,