

PLANNING REF : 242598
PROPERTY ADDRESS : 5 Jardine Meadows
: Reading, Berkshire
: RG2 9HA
SUBMITTED BY : Mr David Lawless
DATE SUBMITTED : 22/11/2024

COMMENTS:

I wish to object to the proposed plans. Milworth Recreation ground has been superbly maintained and looked after by volunteers from Shinfield Rangers for years. It provides both a 9-a-side and 11-a-side football pitch for use by a local club for local people to play football in heart of it's community, which is so important to the clubs identity.

The pitches themselves are used extensively every Saturday for youth football and Sunday for Men's football. They are without doubt some of the best pitches in the immediate area. Drainage is clearly very good as time and time again matches go ahead at Milworth where countless games in both the immediate and surrounding areas are called off for waterlogged pitches. Wokingham Borough Councils own Playing Pitch Strategy recognises the need for more 11 a-side pitches so it seems ludicrous to get rid of one of the best! Huge sums of money have been spent on pitches at the Manor and Ryeish Green playing fields and they are of nowhere near the quality of the pitches at Milworth Lane.

The immediate proximity of the pavilion and facilities are an important consideration for older girls matches.

I recognise that the plans are providing facilities for other sports which is great but it seems ludicrous that SPC has spent so much money developing new football pitches in the area (which I would be surprised if actually stand up to Milworth in the long term) only to remove those at Milworth - why were these new sites not used to provide the facilities for these other sports, surely that would have made more sense? I assume it is because it is easier for SPC to auction off the new sites to the highest bidder, whereas it would be difficult for them to have taken use of Milworth away from Shinfield Rangers and auction off to someone else? I really object to local people having to host sports fields, put up with the noise pollution, inevitable parking chaos every weekend yet see no benefit from the facilities themselves. We will watch people from outside of the local villages travel to use them instead, whilst the facilities we and our children can use get taken away.

I would also question how useful the new facilities are to the local community/residents? Will the padel tennis courts be free to use? Will the 5-a-side 3g be free to use? The plans themselves make no sense with a large percentage of the land not being used. What is the point of this? Lets not forget that it backs on to Langley Mead so a park land area is not really required.

What is the real value of a 5-a-side 3g pitch? It will be too small for local teams to utilise for training or for matches. Plus it is not small sided pitches that there are a shortage of - the existing 3g at Ryeish can host multiple small sided games at the same time,

but only 1 11-a-side game. If it is sincerely felt that a 5-a-side 3g was of real value, maybe some agreement could have been made with Shinfield St Marys right next to Milworth rec so that they could have hosted it in return for use during the school day? Make it a resource that both the school and public could utilise (same goes for many of the other proposed facilities)

I also believe that the consultation held was insufficient and underhand. My understanding is that a consultation about development of a football pitch happened to be held on a Saturday morning when most of the people that it impacts would be busy playing football!

Milworth Lane has been the home of Shinfield Rangers for years and years and should be allowed to continue to be. Maybe the proposed facilities would be used (and not left vandalised, empty and uncared for), but we already know that the pitches definitely will be used and definitely will be looked after and maintained by SRFC (just as they have for decades).