From: Councillors Edward Davie, Stephen Donnelly, Nanda Manley-Browne,
Liz Atkins, Iain Simpson, Rezina Chowdhury
Leader's Office, Lambeth Town Hall,
Brixton Hill, London
SW2 1RW
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By email

13 December 2020

Re: Objection to Wandsworth application to fence off section of Tooting Bec Common

Dear Planning Inspectorate,

We understand the London Borough of Wandsworth has applied under the Greater London Parks and Open Spaces Order 1967, Article 12, to fence off a section of Tooting Bec Common.

As Lambeth Council elected members for the neighbouring wards of Thornton and Streatham Hill we wish to register our objections to this application on behalf of our constituents. This Common Land is the nearest large open space for many of our 30,000 constituents.

The current cinder pitch, which would be fenced off with charges for use under the plans, is currently open, free to use and well used for organised and spontaneous sports and recreation. It is the only all-weather surface for this kind of activity nearby and the adjacent grass becomes extremely muddy in wet weather. Losing this free, open space would be a major loss of amenity to our constituents.

When this matter went before the Wandsworth Planning Applications Committee we surveyed, via a letter with links to an email address, the 1,000 addresses closest to the site - over 200 people told us they objected to Wandsworth's plan and just three supported it.

As well as privatising Common Land we are also concerned that Wandsworth have failed to carry out any transport assessment of increased demand potentially created by the sports teams they hope to attract to travel to and pay to use the new facility. We are concerned this will lead to more polluting, dangerous traffic to the area and pressure on parking.

Please reject this application and preserve precious free, open Common Land which should be preserved under legislation, most recently the Commons Act 2006.

Yours sincerely,

E Davie
On behalf of: Cllrs Ed Davie, Stephen Donnelly, Nanda Manley-Browne, Liz Atkins, Rezina Chowdhury, Iain Simpson