Reference: FS158294974

Comment on a planning application

Application Details

Application: 2019/4206

Address: Balham Boxing And Youth Club 366 Cavendish Road and Football Pitch East of 366 Cavendish Road SW12 0PP

Proposal: Alterations including erection of single storey rear and side extensions, installation of replacement roof, doors, platforms with disabled access ramps; installation of all weather football pitches with associated perimeter fencing and floodlights.

Comments Made By

Name: Balham FC Mr Greg Cruttwell

Address: FLAT 7 TOP FLOOR 32 THE GARDENS LONDON SE22 9QF

Comments

Type of comment: Support the proposal

Comment: Balham FC fully supports this proposal. It will be fantastic for the local community and will offer opportunities for many different sports clubs, mainly younger ones, to make good use of it. Local schools will be able to make good use it too. The club, which I founded and am Chairman of, has existed nomadically since 2001. We currently have to use 12 different school and college venues to train at, which is a logistical nightmare and means that we have no defined training base or home. We are a thriving club that now plays at semi professional level in the FA Cup etc. We currently have 25 teams and players from aged 6 to Vets. We run holiday soccer schools for toddlers and want to expand our girls section, which currently has 3 age group teams, so that it mirrors the boys in providing a direct player pathway from Under 7 up to and into Senior football. To do this without having a facility such as Tooting Triangle at which to base ourselves will be almost impossible. Our club - 3 times London Charter Standard Community Club of the Year and 4 times Wandsworth Sports Club of the Year - represents the demographic of inner city London and along with many other sports clubs in the area, such as the Boxing Club already in situ, we provide a social outlet for young people who without having a club to be part of and belong to will not be engaged and might well get into trouble. Playing sport is incredibly important for young people, We hear every day in the news how not enough people do so. Wandsworth does not currently meet it's required quota for sports facilities. There simply aren't enough available to cope with the needs of sports clubs already in existence, who want to grow and expand, let alone being able to provide adequate facilities for those who want to start up. Using grass, on common land, is great, but much of the time it's too wet and muddy or too dry in the summer to do so. The grass areas in Wandsworth are often called off by the Council which means there is no guarantee that they can be used. Having a community sports hub at Tooting Triangle won't impinge on common land. It's not destroying anything that isn't there already. The floodlit football pitch, which has fallen into disrepair and is currently dangerous to play on, was originally a floodlit football pitch used by local clubs. What is being proposed is merely reinstating what was there originally but modernising it to make it a top facility for community and school use. I lived close to the Triangle for 30 years and used the playground and one o'clock club with my children hundreds of times. I always thought, whilst playing games with them there, that it was a great shame the site was so dilapidated. I could see the potential it had to become a fantastic base for community sport and as a result for social activity. If this proposal goes ahead that is what it will become. It is not, unlike the previous unthinking Goals scheme, a decade ago, planned as a money making exercise. Those behind building it, who have experience in creating other top sporting sites for all, are doing it because they believe in sport in the community and want to get as many young people as possible away from social media and into doing something that will benefit them physically and mentally.

Greg Cruttwell
Chairman Balham FC