



News Wandsworth

Thousands sign petition to stop commercial pitches near Tooting Common playground

16 May 2020 Toby Porter 2 Comments

Fuming residents have signed a petition to demand plans be blocked to build pay-and-play football pitches on a corner of Tooting Common.

More than 5,000 people have demanded Wandsworth planning committee on Tuesday vote against the project, on a site currently occupied by a cinder pitch, near the Tooting Triangle Playground and Balham Boxing Club.

The petition says the plans feature three floodlit astroturf football pitches and a 15 foot-high mesh fence and would mean an 80 yard length of the common will no longer be freely accessible to the public.

It says: "It will lead to a substantial increase in cars being parked at the entrance to the common both day and night – with the pitch used extensively by [Balham] Football Club who compete in a semi professional league and recruit players across South London.

"This private development puts a price on using London's commons. It will bring traffic, noise and artificial light that will destroy the natural environment and one of the few green spaces in London not bounded by roads."

The petition is here: https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/protect-tooting-common?share=f96c2a8f-2055-4d9e-8d90-bad31e9d5b03&source=email-share-button&utm_source=email

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