



# PARKSIDE MALVERN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Alexandra Road, Hornsey Park Road, Malvern Road, Park Ridings, Ravenstone Road  
and The Avenue, N8 - [www.PMRA.co.uk](http://www.PMRA.co.uk)

(Reply by email to [parksidemalvernra@googlemail.com](mailto:parksidemalvernra@googlemail.com) or by post c/o 5 Malvern Road, N8)

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Head of Development Management and Planning Enforcement  
Haringey Council  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, River Park House  
225 High Road  
Wood Green  
London, N22 8HQ

Attn. of Sarah Madondo

Our reference: consultation letter 1

31<sup>st</sup> October 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: HGY/2023/2701 - Multi- use games court within Wood Green Common**

I write on behalf of Parkside Malvern Residents Association (PMRA), the registered residents association covering Hornsey Park Road, Park Ridings, Malvern Road, Ravenstone Road and The Avenue, N8 in response to the Council's current planning application. The views expressed in this letter are those of the Committee and the membership.

We object to the proposed MUGA:

1. The proposal trivialises and totally disregards Wood Green Common as an historic Common and valuable green space that should be retained for its sense of openness and not further enclosed or subdivided in a way that would compromise the inalienable right to roam freely over it. It already provides a unique amenity space and when considered in its historic several parts, needs protection not 'urbanisation' of the type proposed.
2. No one area of the Common should be reconstructed in such a way as to make it out of bounds to those who visit nor should the enjoyment of visitors to the Common be compromised by appropriation for the limited purpose of individual groups.
3. The proposal fails to recognise the Common as the focal point of the Wood Green Conservation Area. Its Character Appraisal notes the importance of 'openness' and the relationship of topography and the long sweeping wall to the south west with long views towards Alexandra Park. Heartlands High School has to some extent compromised the long views which makes it all the more important to protect the long sweeping curve and the openness extending from Station Road to Western Road and Barratt Gardens. The MUGA would block views, destroy the unique openness of the Common, introduce visual clutter and flood lighting at night and subdivide it into meaningless small segments. We strongly object to the visual intrusion the MUGA would cause, the paving, fencing off and subdivision of a significant part of the Common and ensuing harm to the nature and ecology of the Common.
4. The Common already provides an excellent and popular and safe 'natural' open space for informal group games and playing of sport, recreation, picnics and children's parties, informal gatherings, sunbathing and dog walking where each visitor is able to find their own space and mix

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freely. All these simultaneous pursuits will be inhibited or lost by the construction of the MUGA and the fragmentation of the Common. The Common provides all of the inclusion incorrectly attributed to the MUGA: none of the exaggerated claims that the scheme *"has been designed with particular consideration for women, girls and gender diverse people and opportunities for intergenerational engagement throughout the space, thereby providing "solutions to reduce crime and the fear of crime, such as promoting social inclusion; creating well-connected and high-quality public realm that is easy and safe to use"* equal the amenity and quality of open space of the existing Common.

5. There are several MUGA at Heartlands High School. The development zone between Wood green High Road, the railway, Western Road and Turnpike Lane should provide facilities for sport which requires a MUGA rather than require the loss of valuable green open space and irrevocable harm to a historic Common. The proposal makes the incorrect presumption that existing, high quality open green space enjoyed by the community should compensate for poor planning and inadequate provision of public amenities in the area of intensification.
6. There is no clear case for a SuDS on the Common - the nature of the site more than accommodates rainfall and surface runoff. At some times of the year, there are some small areas of moderately wet ground which as a consequence have their own nature – both flora and fauna. This is nature at work, not a 'defect'. The MUGA should be removed from the plans for Wood Green Common and the SuDS designed in such a way that the open character of the Common and the freedom to roam and enjoy all areas is not impaired.
7. Finally, we are particularly disappointed that the applicant and Haringey Council has failed to take on board consultation responses from the local community when these proposals were first made public.

The Common should be protected and this unnecessary, destructive proposal rejected.

Yours faithfully

*Marcus Ballard*

Marcus Ballard – Co-chair,

For and on behalf of Parkside Malvern Residents Association

Cc Ryan Burton King - Co Chair, Polly de Boer – Association Secretary, PMRA