

Objections to the proposed development of Fortis Green Tennis Club
Haringey reference is HGY/2024/0871 and Barnet reference is 24/1407/ NAC

These objections are submitted by Charles Lewis living at 15 Cherry Tree Road N2 9QL. I am also a member of the Fortis Green Tennis Club

Fortis Green Tennis Club is an attractive, long-standing and surely unique tennis club situated on a downhill-sloping open grassy space enhanced by apple trees, blackberry bushes and other shrubs, no sign of any vehicles anywhere, only the back garden of houses glimpsed through the vegetation -- a veritable oasis of refreshing calm we may say. It is a successful club with a good size membership and a lot of enthusiastic players, particularly at the weekend. Social events are well attended and much enjoyed. Saturday afternoons see a fine tea provided by members and pleasant conversation as members sit around with their chairs on the grass outside the clubhouse.

Due to a steady programme of maintenance over the last few years the courts are generally in a good condition, two of them particularly good.

The clubhouse is old-fashioned, quaint one might say, but perfectly adequate for our needs, with hot water, gas, electricity and appropriate plumbing. There is also a separate small wooden hut housing a flushing loo, a basin and appropriate plumbing.

Young children are often seen playing around the greenery while the adults are engaged in tennis games. If the development is permitted there would be access to the club from the end of Cherry Tree Road (see below) and this would present a stranger risk to the children.

The proposed development will replace this charming and well nigh unique (for the area certainly) sporting facility with, of all things, a housing estate including a number of flats and a three-storey building. Squashed on to the development (simply for the purpose of planning compliance) will be courts and a clubhouse. Courts will be reduced from four to three, probably not LTA-compliant, and they will be surrounded by cars and concrete. Such courts are unlikely to attract any players except possibly one or two living on the estate. The club as we know it would simply not exist. It would be doomed. Is this part of the developers' perception, I wonder.

Cherry Tree Road is a narrow Road with trees along each pavement. There are parking spaces for residents on each side which, as one would expect, are fully in use. The parking restrictions are extensive, Monday to Saturday 10:00 till 6:30. There is no turning space or widening whatsoever at the end of the road. There is merely a small strip of land (over which we have no right of way) which seals off the end of the road, beyond which is a fence denoting the boundary of the club grounds, all clearly designed to prevent vehicular access to the open space from Cherry Tree Road. There is a door in the fence situated in a private garden but there is no right of way through the door onto the club grounds, which therefore have to be accessed from Southern Road down a narrow and unmade up footpath. The peace and quiet seclusion of the road, and particularly of the Eastern end of it where the fence is, will, just like the peace and seclusion of the club itself, disappear, to be replaced by endless through traffic and dangerous manoeuvring of vehicles of all sorts on and off the building site both before and after construction.

The proposed development is out of harmony with and unsuitable for Cherry Tree Road and the neighbourhood. It would be in conflict with the surrounding houses, and the general appearance of the Summerlee Estate, which has been preserved so well over the years. Moreover, the site is in fact too small to accommodate this development And, of course, none of this proposal involves social housing!