

[REDACTED]

From: Maria Niklison Chirou [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 April 2025 09:58
To: Planning
Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Padel Court Construction in Cantelowes Gardens
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

Dear All,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of an outdoor, all-weather, floodlit padel court in Cantelowes Gardens. The removal of the existing bench seating area and children's sandpit to make way for this court is a decision that will negatively impact the residents of Kentish Town, Torriano Primary School parents and the wider community.

This space currently serves as an inclusive, free, and well-used community area that caters to people of all ages. Converting it into a paid sports facility—charging between £15 and £25 per session—creates multiple issues that we strongly object to, including:

Key Concerns:

- **Loss of a Valuable Community Space** – The current seating area and sandpit provide a free, accessible gathering place for families, children, and elderly residents. Removing them in favor of a paid facility prioritizes revenue over community well-being.
- **Exclusion of Local Families and Residents** – The introduction of high usage fees makes the space unaffordable for many residents, effectively privatizing a public area.
- **Impact on Children** – The sandpit is one of the few play areas for young children in Cantelowes Gardens. Its removal would deprive them of a vital space for play and development.
- **Disruption to the Park's Tranquility** – Floodlighting and increased foot traffic may create noise pollution and light disturbance, impacting both park users and nearby residents.
- **Unnecessary Commercialization of Public Space** – Cantelowes Gardens is a public park, and its facilities should remain freely accessible. Charging fees for access contradicts its purpose as a shared, inclusive space.

I strongly urge the council to reconsider this plan and explore alternative locations for a padel court that do not require the removal of key community facilities. Instead, I request that efforts be made to improve existing play and seating areas to enhance their benefit for all park visitors.

Kind regards,

Maria Niklison Chirou