

To The Planning Committee,

I am writing today as I have been unable to register my objection to planning application number: 2025/1301/P.

I am a resident who lives locally to Cantelowes Gardens, and I have been using the park since 1990.

My son was 4.5 years old when we moved here from Camden Town.

We used the park almost daily throughout all these years. From warm up soft tennis, frisbee, playing in the Sandpit with various toys & other children, to kick an outs and football games.

I also have had dogs from the time of moving here, so it is a vital resource for myself & family.

Enjoying the use of the picnic benches while children in my care played happily in the Sandpit which is adjacent to the picnic benches, making it safe, as the children can be supervised with ease in the current layout.

I understand there was some consultation on the matter of installing the Padel court. However, the consultation period closed quite quickly and myself along with others were not able to have our voice heard through the consultation.

We are totally against the installation of the Padel court in Cantelowes Gardens.

Particularly, because the site is not big enough to accommodate the court and it will be at the expense of our much loved, highly popular Sandpit which was designed by an architect and paid for by Lottery funding.

Everyday, I see how excited the toddlers and young children exhibit when they approach the park and make a run in the direction of the super Sandpit.

They enjoy imaginative play, enjoy sand which some may have never seen before. Climbing the meteor rock and sitting on top of it is a one thing the older children and other people seem to enjoy immensely.

Taking away any part of the Sandpit, felling trees which are ideally placed to provide some shade will have a serious negative impact. There are many families with small children and babies who do not have access to garden areas at their home. So, the impact of this plan will end with them losing a vital & much loved part of the Green space in Cantelowes Gardens.

I have heard there are inclusions for reducing the Sandpit, cutting down some of the trees, adding to the meadow (which we have continued to develop and enhance with new planting recently). There doesn't seem to be any clear detail outlining exactly what will happen to the amazing Sandpit if the planning application is granted.

There doesn't seem Service users of Cantelowes Gardens by far outnumber those in favour of building a Padel court here. We must be heard and not lose out based on the survey which found 50.5 in favour versus 49.5 against.

Remember, many people were not able to have their objections included in that survey, so truly we have not seen it as a fair process given the importance of having our Sandpit left untouched.

Please do NOT permit this planning application result in our community losing something which they need.

I expect to be a grandmother soon, and my plan was to be able to spend lots of quality time playing with the children in the wonderful Sandpit. Which is what it is meant for.

Save Our Sandpit!!!!

Diane Thorne