

Case Officer: Daren Zuk 3368

Dear Mr Zuk and Council Members,

I wish to express my concerns about this planning application in relation to "Site Suitability", "Alternative Locations", and "Impact on Children".

**The site of Cantelowes Gardens is not suitable for an additional MUGA, it lacks available space for a Padel court.**

Waterlow Park and Lincolns Inn fields offer more suitable spaces for Padel Courts either next to or within the Tennis court areas or elsewhere within both of those spacious sites. The local demographic in Highgate and Holborn also demonstrate that they have the disposable income required to participate in Padel.

What are the key and qualitative criteria that Camden Council applied when deciding upon the most suitable site within the borough?

Location, size, topography, infrastructure, local demographics? – How did Waterlow Park & Lincolns Inn Fields score by comparison to Cantelowes on these elements alone?

Tennis Clubs in France have replaced a number of their tennis courts with Padel courts, being smaller, can fit within Tennis courts and can be reverted easily.

In the city of Belgrade, birthplace of Novak Djokovic, Padel is marketed as a complete service – courts, coaching, equipment, lockers, parking & café within the Kalemegdan city park. Yet, it is not as popular as Tennis, I walked past the courts one evening on a recent trip – there were four people playing a jovial game of tennis under floodlights, whilst 2 adjacent padel courts lay empty and in darkness. Similar to the existing MUGA which already takes up a heap of space in Cantelowes gardens – spends a lot of time empty & ghostlike whilst locals have fun in the sand pit, skate park, dog park, basketball area, community gardening and outdoor gym.

**Removing the children's natural play area is simply disadvantageous and would negatively impact their development.**

In the not-too-distant past, the London Borough of Camden generously appointed Tim Wilson(project Architect) of Farrer Huxley Associates to considerately design the natural play area for Cantelowes in collaboration with local parents and neighbourhood groups.

Natural play is crucial for child development, impacting physical, mental, social and cognitive well-being. It fosters a connection to nature, encourages exploration and promotes healthy behaviours. It boosts creativity, imagination and problem-solving skills.

It appears that Camden Council may not have fully considered the impact on local children by building a Padel court on top of their natural play area.

I strongly urge you to consider alternative locations that could better accommodate the Padel court.

In addition it would be greatly appreciated if Camden Council demonstrates a sincere effort to sustainably maintain the children's natural play area and existing facilities within Cantelowes Gardens.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Fahey