

**From:** [Lucy Lethbridge](#)  
**To:** [TeampNI](#)  
**Subject:** FAO Mr James Bunten  
**Date:** 24 August 2016 12:15:36

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Reference Number: APP/X5210/W/16/3153454  
Site address: Mansfield Bowling Club, Croftdown Road, Camden, London NW5 1EP

Dear Mr Bunten,

With reference to Mansfield Bowling Club: as a resident of Camden for more than twenty years, for the following reasons I am against the appeal which has been lodged as regards Camden's rejection of planning proposals for the site.

There is a shortage of public parks in the borough- and those that we have should be cherished rather than built on. In the case of Dartmouth Park, there are many alternative leisure facilities that this site could be used for - and which are overlooked by the SLC report which concentrates only on those uses that fall under the responsibility of Camden Sports. Local schools are desperately in need of space for sporting activities; a local fencing club has expressed an interest, and trampolining has a great deal of support too. None of these alternative uses, all of great enhancement to the local community, were explored in the report. And why offer £600,000 compensation for the loss of leisure facilities if, as the developers claim, there is to be "no" loss?

This application was overwhelmingly rejected by not only Camden Council but by local residents. To continue with the proposed development in the face of such local opposition would be simply wrong - and would foster poor relations in the community. The authors of the report failed to engage with local communities or sports organisations to find out what they really thought of the scheme. When a local school tried to give feedback, they were ignored.

Democratically elected Camden Council has a stated aim of supporting existing leisure and community facilities - this aim is laudable and should be supported. To continue with the development would undermine a central commitment of the council and will erode trust between residents and local government in all areas of the borough.

The development proposes that access to open space will be maintained through a "community garden": however, the garden is gated and fenced and there are no safeguards to prevent it being closed to the public - as has happened in the Goddard Place development in Islington.

All of who live in Camden respect our green spaces - not only for ourselves but for our children in the future. Wherever they are they should be protected. At a time when our city seems to be vanishing under new building, the maintenance of spaces where communities can come together is ever more important.

Yours sincerely,

Lucy Lethbridge

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