Dear Jennifer,

I wish to object to the inappropriate and ill thought-out proposals made by Mansfield Bowling Club [MBC] to build residential property on a site that offers much needed sports and leisure facilities to the local community. One of the main reasons my sister and I purchased a flat overlooking the tennis courts and bowling green site was precisely because of the advantages of having these facilities close by.

We request Camden Council to protect these sport/leisure sites, as once lost, they are lost forever.

MBC have not done enough research into viable sporting alternatives for the site. Our own research shows that there is huge demand for indoor leisure facilities, Camden's own Olympic run fencing school needs a new home, trampoline parks are a rising phenomenon, and anyone who has had to queue at dawn to get their child a place on the Talacre gym class will know how oversubscribed they are.

MBC have not made a good case for crowding the site with a dense development of luxury housing, this is not an enabling development, it is a 'get rich quick' scheme.

MBC have designed the site so that once the houses are built the 'open space' they claim to be offering, can be closed off from the local community.

MBC claims to offer to develop the Kenlyn tennis club as part of their plan, but they have made no binding commitments to stand by this, and it is very suspicious that they have not put any structure in place to manage the tennis club after the development. Could it be that they plan to change the planning use to residential, then sell the site to the next developer, who will carry no responsibility to uphold Generator's/MBCs promises?

MBC have failed to ensure that the open space is sustainably managed and maintained for the future, and for the benefit of the public - which means that in a few years time they could come back with a demand to build more houses on whatever open space is left.

This site should be protected for leisure use, which is in increasing demand. It is an open space for the benefit of the local community. So it was gifted to the area by Burdett-Coutts, and so it should remain.

Yours sincerely,

Rowena Barber,

5 Dartmouth Park Avenue NW5 1JL Mansfield Neighbours Group (Dartmouth Park Residents CIC)

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