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**From:** Esmond Htchcock [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 23:18  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** Planning Application No. 2017/4151/P

It is noted that this Application was advertised by posting only four notices in the streets around the school grounds, and only one in Menelik Road where residents were most likely to be affected.

The Application should be considered in the context of Camden's Policy A1 Managing the impact of development, particularly with regard to the protection of neighbours' amenity; visual privacy; artificial lighting and noise levels.

The Application seeks permission to install four 10 metre floodlights around a pitch of 1000 square metres, located around 20 metres from the boundary with properties in Menelik Road. 10 metres is about the height of the houses in Menelik Road, some of which are themselves only around 35 metres from the pitch. There is no need for 10 metre pylons around a pitch of this size; 30m x 35m. The all-weather Hockey pitch on the UCS grounds by the cemetery has eight pylons around a pitch of 5000 square metres; twice the number proposed for a pitch 5 times as large, and there are no immediately adjacent properties. However well the floodlights are controlled, their lighting from 10 metres in dark evenings will be an evident intrusion on the gardens of the Menelik Road properties. For a 5-a-side football pitch floodlights at a much lower height should be sufficient. In a residential area, 7 or 8 metre pylons, of the kind used around tennis courts, would be more appropriate and much less intrusive. Pylons of this height are used for example, at the Brondesbury and Cumberland Tennis clubs.

The Application seeks permission to use the floodlights every evening of the year without restriction. There must be some restriction on the days of the week that the floodlights could be used. Weekend, or at least Sunday use seems inappropriate, and bank holidays should be excluded.

The Application seeks permission to use the floodlights until 9.30 pm. Noise at night carries more audibly and is more intrusive than in daylight, and football and other games that are likely to be played on the pitch are likely to be noisy, and certainly much more noisy than tennis. Noise from floodlit games only thirty-five metres away up to 9.30 pm will be intrusive and unreasonably interfere with the normal living of families in the houses in Menelik Road that back onto the School. The houses are all family homes, many with small children for whom 9.30 is much later than their normal bed time. There should then, be a much earlier evening closure time. In a comparable use of floodlights installed at William Ellis School in the 1990s, 5 metre pylons were fitted, and their use restricted to no later than 6.00 pm. [Planning Application Nos. 9301416 & PE9700137.] With regard to the proximity of properties in this case, an even earlier closure time would be appropriate on Fridays and Saturdays, when gardens are more likely to be in use.

It is appreciated that in the winter months people will be less active in their gardens, but the evenings are still warm as the autumnal nights draw in and in the spring. It is not the case then, that noise later in the evening at these times of year, encouraged by the use of floodlights would not be intrusive.

While I should expect the school to take all reasonable precautions to preserve the security of the grounds, I am concerned at the possibility of the grounds being used by third parties, and thereby providing them access during hours of darkness to the boundary with the Menelik Road houses backing onto the grounds.

I should stress that I have no objection to the use of the pitch during daylight hours, or to the suggestion that the school earn some revenue from such use by third parties. However, I do believe restrictions as set out above should be imposed on the installation and use of floodlights on the pitch.

Esmond Hitchcock  
18 Menelik Road