

Activity Sheet 1.2d

Source D

Highbury Community Association

Extracts from response to Council Planning Brief

Dear Sir,

This letter is based on the views of our members, the people who attended public meetings and our knowledge of the business of football. We believe that it is wholly inappropriate to place a large stadium in the middle of densely populated residential areas, or large conurbations.

The proposals the council has forwarded clearly breach its own plans, which recognise the Ashburton Grove area as an industrial site. They also threaten the jobs in the area and the environmental sites there. The council complains that the businesses create noise and dust but it is actually the council-owned waste-transfer operation that causes the most problems. The others cause less of a problem, but most industry produces some noise and waste and at least it is concentrated here away from residents, which is good for them and local businesses. The council also fails to mention that the biggest building merchants in the area is also on the site: to move this would be difficult and would increase traffic across London as lorries and vans would have further to travel.

If there is a stadium built we recommend that it should have restrictions on its use. It should not be used for any other sports or concerts. It should be limited to only 30 matches per year but no more than two games in any one week. This would help keep disruption to residents to a minimum. Allowing the development to include new shops would make things worse for the local traders and shopkeepers. They also say that their business actually suffers rather than improving on a match day because of the traffic and congestion.

Worst of all is the suggestion that the developers would be able to relocate important environmental sites! We would like the parkland walk extended but not as compensation for destroying other areas.

We urge you to advise the Planning Committee that the draft brief should be withdrawn, and the developer advised that Ashburton Grove is not a suitable site for a stadium complex.

Yours faithfully,