



## THE HARROW HILL TRUST

Caring for the heritage of the Hill and its future

Planning Department  
Harrow Council  
Civic Centre, Station Road  
Harrow HA1 2UY

Holm Oak  
Mount Park Avenue  
Harrow on the Hill  
HA1 3JN

Via email to: [planning.applications@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@harrow.gov.uk)

cc Ward councillors

**RE: PL/0435/24 John Lyon School**

**13 March 2024**

Dear Catriona Cooke

The actual wording of the proposed change to the definition of Permitted Recreational Users is not clear. We do not believe that a specific change in the name of Activeswim would satisfy the community need nor the intention of planning policy for community use.

Use solely for 1/1 or 2/1 private lessons evenings and weekends with a community swim of 30 minutes for 6 people once a week does not make for any significant community benefit. Please compare this to the previous use. The relevant minutes of the Council meeting are attached as an appendix. The previous sports centre manager told the Council meeting that 19 sports clubs had been impacted by the closure and that over 1,000 children per week had been using the facility to learn to swim.

Please can Councillors note that there was a petition with 1,300 signatures raised at the time against the closure. (ref HHT minutes 11/7/2013). As such we do not believe that this matter should be a delegated decision.

What is required is for the definition of Permitted Recreational Users to include the public or local residents as defined by dwelling within a radius of 1 mile. This last point can be readily built into the systems, as is undertaken in many facilities elsewhere where booking of places is required, or required for a membership to be issued, or by using a driving license or utility bill to be a user/member.

The minutes of the HHT meeting of 11 July 2013 show clearly that the parking issues at the time of closure did not cease when sports centre closure occurred. The parking pressures were during the day and were caused by the older students in the sixth form (160 -180 pupils) being able to drive or learning to drive and the teachers.

“Parking problems had not eased since the closure of the Sports Centre as the issue was with pupils and teachers’ unsocial parking during the day, not evening use of the Sports Centre.” 11/7/2103

The traffic management plan, an existing requirement, should be reviewed to ensure that it covers any changes in use.

Whilst this application is a tiny step in the right direction it is clearly woefully inadequate to address the needs of the Borough. Planned use of the sports facility outside of school hours can readily accommodate many users and provide a real community benefit in line with the many policies mentioned in the application. A proper Communities Use Agreement should be put in place.

Yours sincerely

*Paul Catherall*

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Chair, Harrow Hill Trust Planning Committee

[pcatherall@hotmail.com](mailto:pcatherall@hotmail.com)

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