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FAO: Rachel Chen, Planning Assistant

Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial
Playing Fields

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Dear Sir/Madam

Public Consultation for a Proposed Telecommunications Structure at Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields, Marina Avenue, Motspur Park, New Malden KT3 6NE

In response to your consultation letter dated , sent to local residents, we oppose any development of this nature in Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields (“The Park”), based on the following:

As a community group our aims are

- To secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field as a place of active and passive public recreation and sports.
- To promote the conservation of the natural plant, invertebrate, bird and animal life of the park for the benefit of the public and future generations, including by seeking to limit the adverse effects, on the Park, of policies, developments and activities which may damage the attributes of the Park.
- To encourage the public to use the park as a place for social engagement and community interaction including but not limited to children’s recreation, dog walking and fitness activities.

Our opposition to this structure links directly to all of the above aims.

1. The proposed site is immediately adjacent to a children’s playground and sports facilities for young people (basketball and table tennis); this raises

Run by the community for the community fundraising for a park to be proud of



concerns from both an aesthetic point of view, restriction of the above activities and potentially creates conflicts with the guidelines set down by the International Commission on Non-Iodizing Radiation Protection.

2. In 1935, the park was covenanted in perpetuity as a playing field and recreation site with the assistance of the Carnegie Trust and the National Playing Fields Association (https://www2.merton.gov.uk/sir_joseph_hood_memorial_playing_fields_management_plan_-_part_1_pgs_1-25_.pdf) and we oppose any development which does not contribute to this covenant.
3. The proposed location of the structure is within an area which has been designated as a “Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation” by the Greater London Authority and as Metropolitan Open Land. It has also been declared as a Local Nature Reserve in 1994. (https://www2.merton.gov.uk/sir_joseph_hood_memorial_playing_fields_management_plan_20061-2.pdf) As the area is a designated Local Nature Reserve, there are concerns that long term exposure to electromagnetic fields may pose potential risks to birds, insects, the health of nearby plants including trees, and bats. We have evidence of bats roosting by the woodland, which is also an important linear route for feeding. Bats are a species protected by European legislation, meaning that any development which may have a detrimental effect on them requires a detailed bat survey.
4. Merton Council’s Management plans have indicated “the vision for Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Field is ‘to encourage healthier lifestyles, strong inclusive communities and an appreciation of nature through the provision of an attractive, high quality space...accessible to all” and we feel that a structure of these dimensions will detract from this (https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2016/02/pub14550114361.pdf)

We recognise that there may be a need for better network coverage in this area, but suggest that other locations be sought outside the boundary of this designated Site of Borough Grade II Importance for Nature Conservation/Local Nature Reserve.

Please note The Friends as a community group with relevant interest in this consultation and provide us with details of both the outcome of your consultation and any future proposed developments in the park.



Yours faithfully

Sign on behalf of

Friends of Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing Fields