

## Summary of Objections and Responses

**i. Objection:** Loss of public open space due to football pitch and changing rooms on site along with fencing and seating.

Comment from Objector 1 (MCA&FMP) – “we also as a committee object to the Bush Hill Football Pitch and building being installed into our local park”

**Response:**

*The open space will still be accessible by the public. There will be a post and rail type barrier around the pitch only to stop motor vehicles entering the site etc. There will be openings in the barrier to enable members of public to enter through the gaps.*

*There used to be a football pitch on this site and 3 adult pitches in the park in total, although no changing rooms close to the site of the proposed lease.*

*The pitches were last operated by SCC as public pitches approximately 10 years ago.*

*Replacement open space is to be offered by the Council as part of the planning application.*

*There will be no overall loss of open space in the vicinity and the land (excluding changing rooms) will be fully accessible when the pitch is not in use for football matches, training etc.*

**ii. Objection:** Loss of free access to land (believing public will need to pay to see matches/access land)

Comment from Objector 2 – “this being public lands means the public has FREE access to them” “there are numerous football pitches in the area that are suitable for their use, without having to build a permanent structure with new plumbing, sewer outlets fences and paid seating structures for financial gain”

**Response:**

*There is no charge to watch the games and public access to the site will not be prevented except during matches etc*

**iii. Objection:** Increase in anti social behaviour linked to noise, rubbish and increased alcohol consumption.

Comment from Objector 1 (MCA&FMP) - “We do not want the “noise and rubbish” and presumably “alcohol” being brought across from the Saints Pub on match days”

Comments from Objector 2 – “one only has to see the rubbish left behind by these people using the grounds of other football pitches, as has recently been reported by the Southampton Echo (Saturday October 13<sup>th</sup> 2012)”

“the language and the drunken hooliganism from these people is atrocious”

“the noise from these people can be heard for miles and is very disturbing”

Comment from Objector 3 – “The only reason I see for Bush Hill football club wanting to build a new facility on the PUBLIC land of Mansel Park is so the Saints pub can sell more alcohol of which they are involved with this club. This will increase the current alcohol abuse and leave even more rubbish to be removed from our lovely park”

**Response:**

*The football club will be ensuring that all litter/rubbish from the game is cleared up and disposed of. This will be made a lease requirement.*

*The only additional noise will be from the players and supporters at the game which only take place during daylight hours.*

*There will be limited noise at training sessions but this should be no more than is usual from other open space users.*

*There will be no alcohol served at or taken to the game by the club.*

*There will be 15 home league games and possibly 10 cup games depending on progress in the competitions and where the club are drawn to play (eg home or away).*

**iv. Objection:** May affect residents parking close to the site.

Comment from Objector 2 – “these people take over the area and park in any place they think fit”. “ the damage to property caused by their vehicles leaves the residents to repair or live in a depressed state of deep ruts to the grassy verges and they have absolutely no respect for the residents legal rights to parking of their own vehicles on their own property”

**Response:**

*The home team and supporters will be requested to park in the “Saints Pub” car park, if they come by car.*

*To help stop additional parking on the streets, Bush Hill FC is proposing that the away team park on the existing hard standing in the park adjacent to Mansel Park Pavilion. A parking attendant will be supplied by the club to ensure correct parking on the hard standing only and not the park area itself. Lease conditions will be incorporated to ensure the parking is properly supervised and controlled.*

*There will be approx 60 spectators, most are home supporters who are local and will walk or come with team members.*

*Away supporters will come with away team players and park as proposed above, approximately 10 cars, due to car sharing and use of public transport etc.*

**v. Objection:** Other pitches already available locally.

Comment from Objector 1(MCA&FMP) - “There are plenty of pitches within this area to be used including changing facilities. Test Park and Green Park to name but two”

Comment from Objector 2 – “there are numerous football pitches in the area that are suitable for their use, without having to build a permanent structure with new plumbing, sewer outlets fences and paid seating structures for financial gain”

Comment from Objector 3 – “ I am against the Bush Hill football club moving from Green Park where they have already a changing room and football grounds with which they already hold matches” “If as they say the pitches are not big enough I am sure it would be easy enough to enlarge the current pitches to their required use”

**Response:**

*Bush Hill FC are trying to establish a community facility for people in Millbrook as they are a local team, Mansel Park is more central.*

*The Bush Hill Football Club require dedicated facilities to allow them to progress up the league and suitable facilities cannot be provided at other grounds.*

**vi. Objection:** Damage to verges and other grassed areas due to an increase in vehicle usage. Also risk of vehicles coming on to Mansel Park.  
Comment from Objector 1(MCA&FMP) “our grass verges are being ruined as it is by cars parked on them and no money to put them right. This will make things a whole lot worse by the increased number of vehicles trying to use those verges”

Comment from Objector 3 - There is no space for vehicle parking along the road now so these people will be parking on our grass verges or the park itself and causing more damage”

**Response:**

*Except as necessary to install the changing rooms and in cases of emergency, there should be no vehicle access to the park and this will be a condition of the lease. Any damage caused due to club activities will be the responsibility of the club to re-instate. As previously mentioned no additional on street parking is anticipated due to the above proposals.*

*When the 3 original pitches were used the cars parked by the pavilion and in Evenlode Road with no major problems/issues.*

**vii. Objection:** Increase in traffic volume and parking close to the site affecting public transport, impeding pedestrian visibility and impeding access for emergency services.

Comments from Objector 1(MCA&FMP) “there is already a huge volume of cars and vans on the pathways from the Saints Pub. I am sure this will triple”  
“The road structure is not wide enough to support parked vehicles and if allowed would seriously impede pedestrian visibility crossing the road. It would also seriously hamper the travelling public as well as the public bus services. But perhaps even more seriously would be the restriction of emergency services such as the Fire Brigade, Ambulance and Police Services”

Comment from Objector 3- “they will be blocking the narrow streets preventing buses and other travelling public from accessing the roads. Even worse delaying emergency vehicles from going about their business

**Response:**

*Again parking of additional vehicles will be off road and not on pathways or roads as proposed above, so there should be no increased problems for public transport, pedestrian visibility and emergency services*

**viii. Objection:** Digging up of parkland and road in order to bring services to the changing rooms.

Comment from Objector 1(MCA&FMP) - “the road has only recently been completely resurfaced at a huge cost. To now build a changing room on our pristine park would require construction services digging out our wild life bushes and creating expensive road works to install sewerage plumbing and

electrical services to this unwanted building and football ground”

**Response:**

*Any required works will be discussed with SCC and relevant suppliers, but should be able to be taken from existing services in or very close to the park with little disruption to the area. All land will be correctly reinstated following the works.*

*The local water authorities would be consulted as it is proposed to use mains water and drainage.*

**ix. Objection:** Loss access to the Labyrinth at Mansel Park

Comment from Objector 2 – “ the general public will have no access to the Labyrinth created by the Friends of Mansel Park”

**Response:**

*There will still be access to the Labyrinth as this is on the other side of the oak trees and close to the centre path.*

**x. Objection:** The park will be spoilt, public use reduced and wildlife harmed  
Comment from Objector 1(MCA&FMP) - “The park has received a green flag status and a community flag, we don’t want or see it all being spoilt by a money making exercise”

Comment from Objector 2 – “ The Friends of Mansel Park and the Millbrook Community Association have worked hard and long to get the youths of Millbrook to use the Mansel Park facilities and this football pitch will reduce the usage of the public park considerably and destroy the wildlife such as the squirrel and bird population”

**Response:**

*The proposals will increase community usage of the park/open space which is in line with the council’s community strategy. Usage should not be reduced.*

*This is not a money making exercise for the council as the income will only equate to the usual pitch fees receivable from the club.*

*This is not a money making exercise for the club. It has a limited income mainly from membership fees and little if no profit is anticipated. The adults running the club are volunteers.*

*Wildlife will not be detrimentally affected. No habitats or trees will be destroyed.*

**xi. Objection:** This may lead to other similar applications

Comment from Objector 1(MCA&FMP) - “Surely this will see other football clubs also wanting to be building on parks if this is allowed to be”

**Response:**

*Any further application would be considered independently of this matter and decided on its own merit.*