

**Cllr J McMahon**

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**From:** Cllr J McMahon **Sent:** Tue 5/27/2008 16:44  
**To:** Geoff Willerton  
**Cc:** Mark Jones; Cllr P Dean; strettonj@parliament.uk; news@oldham-chronicle.co.uk; oldhamadvertiser@menwn.co.uk  
**Subject:** Planning Application PA/055084/08 - Kaskenmoor Ball Court  
**Attachments:**

Dear Geoff

**RE: Planning Application PA/055084/08 - Kaskenmoor Ball Court extension.**

I am writing to object to the above planning application.

The applicant and operator of the site has consistently failed in their duty to respect the impact of the sports facility on neighbouring residential properties. The existing ball court is covered in graffiti and is a regular meeting place for youths drinking and subsequently causing criminal damage to residential properties in the vicinity.

The current building, and the proposed extension resembled that of an aeroplane hanger and is visually damaging to what is currently an open space used by the community and surrounded to two sides by residential properties. The scale and mass of the proposed extension will have a negative impact on neighbouring properties.

In cases like this I will always lean towards the greater good and community benefit from the facility. However in this case I am clear that this facility is used mainly by people from outside Failsworth and Hollinwood and the negative impact on the neighbourhood is not outweighed by the advantages of the increased facility.

The problems relating to anti-social behaviour on the site are well documented, both in crime statistics and in a recent petition raised by local residents calling for the closure of the facility.

The crime impact assessment clearly states; 'this is a relatively high crime area. By far the most prevalent crime within the area is Criminal Damage (129). There are also significantly high levels of burglary (46 Dwelling and 45 other), vehicle crime (38 theft from and 19 theft of).... The majority of these crimes occur around the school site itself and within the residential areas...'

Any increase in this facility will further add to these problems and the applicant has failed to show they are capable of tackling the problems attracted by their facility.

**I ask that you consider these points and recommend refusal.**

Yours,

**Councillor Jim McMahon (Failsworth East Ward)**

Leader of the Main Opposition Oldham Labour Group

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