

[REDACTED]

Friends of Butts Close
Lavender House
71 Bedford Road
Hitchin SG5 2TU

[REDACTED]

20 June 2025

Melissa Tyler
Planning Officer
North Herts Council
By email

Dear Melissa

Re: Planning Application 25/00718/FP Hitchin Swimming Pool Complex

Further to the letter to yourselves dated 8 May 2025 from myself On behalf of Friends of Butts Close, on 18 June 2025 FOBC representatives Anna Parr and Stuart Howarth met with Hayden Wills of Willmott Dixon (at the request of the latter) to discuss their application. We would like to update our response to the planning application with the following comments.

Construction Transport Management Plan

We discussed the CTMP and our letter of 8 May requesting additional safeguards regarding deliveries (bullet points 2-5). The proposals by HW for Willmott Dixon resolved these concerns. We still have concerns related to deliveries during the school run. We have requested that WMD update the CTMP to restrict deliveries to between 9:30 and 14:30. They have said that they would rather this was done by Planning Condition.

We therefore confirm our request by letter dated 8 May that you attach a Condition to any planning permission granted to restrict deliveries to between 9:30 and 14:30 Monday - Friday during school terms.

New Larger Gate onto Butts Close

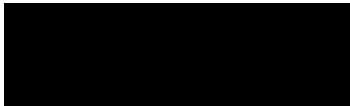
Butts Close is used by many as a tranquil haven in the town. Part of this is because of its size, allowing people walking down its eastern edge to feel away from the built environment. The proposed new palisade gates are larger than those currently on site (approximately 4.1m wide) but the planning application does not say how wide they will be. The compound, which is used for storage and has brightly painted steps, distracts from the natural aesthetic of Butts Close. We request that the new gates are made of a solid material in a sympathetic colour palette, so they screen the compound area from Butts Close. For example, we would suggest that they could be made of wood and match the fence to the north of their proposed location. If the new gates are made of metal, feathered lap board affixed to the west-facing palisade gates would mitigate their intrusive design.

Alternatively, the new gate is no larger in width than the existing gate onto Butts Close.

If this cannot be accommodated then we would object to the planning permission.

The other comments in our letter of 8 May, related to biodiversity net gain and the need to make good any damage to Butts Close following the works, are still relevant.

Yours sincerely

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Convenor
Friends of Butts Close

Cc

Shaun Greaves, NHC
Daniel Allen, NHC
Amy Allen, NHC
Ian Albert, NHC
Val Bryant, NHC
Dave Winstanley, NHC
Nigel Mason, NHC
Alan North, NHC
Suzi Green, Bidwells
Leanne Ward, WMD
Heyden Wills, WMD
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