

Hitchin Forum

CARING FOR OUR TOWN

29 Bearton Road
Hitchin
SG5 1UE

8 May 2025

NHC Planning Control
Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
SG6 3JF

Attention of Melissa Tyler

Dear Sirs

Planning Application 25/00718/FP Hitchin Swimming Pool Complex.

Decarbonisation works, including: the provision of insulated rendering to external walls, a substation, air source heat pumps and associated enclosure, and the installation of photovoltaic panels on roofs. Changes to western access gate and ground re-enforcement of access..

I am writing to you on behalf of Hitchin Forum.

In principle we are supportive of the aims of the project. We have the following comments:-

The only Site Notice seen by us is fixed round a lighting pole next to the Swimming entrance. It has been altered by hand to read 23 April 2025. This is nearly 3 weeks later than the application date of 4 April 2025 and suggests to us that the Standard and Neighbour Consultation expiry dates of 8 and 15 May should be put back accordingly.

Our main concern lies with the offloading and manoeuvring of deliveries, their likely conflict with traffic on the A505, and with pedestrians (including small children and groups of children) and cyclists using the 3 metalled footpaths bordering the site. Vague terms like "pedestrian pavement temporarily closed during delivery" for managing this safely are inadequate, we believe.

Also we are unsure of what is proposed (including any phasing) to protect existing Complex users during the works - unless the Council are intending to close the entire facility for 9 months.

We are not convinced of the visual implications of the existing red brick being coated by "off-white/beige render". Trial panels may be helpful.

We note the proposal to widen the Western vehicular access gate 'to suit UKPN tracking'. The current gate width is 4.2m – what is the proposed widening, please?

Yours faithfully

Neil Dodds

On behalf of Hitchin Forum