

26 Woodside
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 6PW

28th July 2024

Dear Sir/madam

OBJECTION TO PLANNING APPLICATION NO. HPK/2024/0289

I object to the proposal for the erection of a replacement stand at Buxton Football Ground on the grounds that the development is likely to exacerbate problems caused by the existing operation of the football club and cause a further loss of amenity to local residents.

The replacement stand will result in over a doubling of seating capacity when compared with the existing facility, from 500 to 1005 seats. The submitted Planning Statement claims that this will not necessarily mean an increase in the number of visitors yet fails to provide details of how many seats in the replacement stand will be used by fans currently using the standing-only terraces, nor does it indicate that the standing-only terraces will no longer be used. Therefore, I assume that the increase in capacity will inevitably involve increased numbers, indeed if the aim is to place the business on a more sustainable financial footing then this would surely be essential.

No additional car parking is proposed despite the increase in football ground capacity, therefore the existing problems of traffic congestion and of users seeking to park in nearby residential areas is likely to worsen. These problems include parking illegally on double-yellow lines and dropped kerbs, blocking junctions, obstructing pavements and attempts to park in private car parking areas. Fans being made aware of these issues have occasionally responded with anti-social behaviour.

The submitted application is not accompanied by a Travel Plan and fails to outline how the additional number of visitors to the football ground will be encouraged to use public transport, such as rail and bus, or active travel options such as cycling and walking.

Additional numbers of users at Buxton Football Ground are also likely to exacerbate problems of noise and litter in the local neighbourhood.

Although the proposal does not involve additional floodlighting, I note that the replacement stand will have its own lighting and, given the proposed hours of operation, this is likely to worsen existing problems of light pollution particularly during the autumn and winter months.

In terms of pre-application consultation, there was an event organised by Buxton Football Club but this was publicised at less than a week's notice, held at the football ground (rather than a neutral venue) and claims in the Planning Statement that those residents who did participate in engagement actually supported the proposals are inaccurate.

The Council's consultation on the proposal has been disappointing, with neighbour notification letters arriving in some instances well into the 21 day consultation period and a site notice only being placed outside the football ground in the past week. This leads to potential confusion over the consultation period deadline, as also happened with the proposal for an electronic scoreboard.

For the above reasons, I request that the proposal for a replacement stand at Buxton Football Ground be refused planning permission.

Kind regards

