**ASN Consultation Response**

Sender’s name:

Sender’s address:

Dear Sir or Madam

**I am writing to object to the proposal to build a school on the Waterside playing fields.**

While I understand the need to build an ASN school in a suitable place (e.g. on a brownfield site in line with planning policies), I believe the proposal to build it on Waterside playing fields – **Open Space (Policy 7)** and **Green Belt (Policy 3)** – would damage the village and area as well as local football clubs. There is no “strong justification” for building here. Other sites are feasible.

**The loss of this valued and much-used field and football pitch would have the following consequences:**

1. Waterside children would lose the only large grassed area where they can play safely unsupervised in the village.
2. Gartconner Primary School would lose access to an area they currently use for cross-country training.
3. Rosebank United FC might have to close as there’s only one other grass pitch in Kirkintilloch, and the hire fees for artificial pitches are unaffordable for them.
4. £100,000 was spent upgrading the football pitch some six years ago. This investment would be wasted.
5. Since there is no other large community space available, the community would never again be able to hold a gala, have a funfair or engage in other community-wide outdoor activity in the village.
6. Walkers would lose a space they use. Any (reduced-size) artificial pitch facilities at the school would be unsuitable for them.
7. There would be little green open space (vital for mental and physical health) left in the village as all green spaces are gradually making way for development.
8. Our village would effectively merge with Kirkintilloch, leading to a loss of community identity and spirit.
9. The look of this village would be spoiled.
10. There would be more traffic. There is only one road in and out of the village (Bankhead Rd). It is already congested at rush hour.
11. Air quality would deteriorate due to increased traffic. Parking in the village would be likely to become even more difficult than it is now.
12. We would not be able to follow through with plans to plant wild flowers and trees round the edge of the playing fields to support biodiversity and improve our environment.
13. We would feel disempowered, feeling that the council was stealing our field merely as a cost-saving measure (to avoid having to buy a plot/use saleable brownfield land).

Building here would contravene the following LDP policies: **Policy 7: Community Facilities and Open Space** and **Protection of existing facilities**; **Design and Placemaking Policy 2A, 2F, 2G, 2H**. It would also be contrary to **The Active Scotland Outcomes Framework (2014)**.

I believe the playing fields are a vital amenity for Waterside, for Rosebank and for local football teams. They also help preserve Waterside’s identity as a separate village, which is important to us.

I ask East Dunbartonshire Council to listen to our objections and to find another site for the school.

Yours faithfully