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Jeff Austin, Director of Environment and Leisure

Environment and Planning Department

This matter is being dealt with by: Jackie Cutts

Your Reference:

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Mr Nicolas Coleman
Chairman of Hampstead & Westminster
Hockey Club
302 Lauderdale Tower Barbican
LONDON
EC2Y 8NA

Date: 10 January 2000

Dear Mr Coleman

FLOODLIGHTS AT PADDINGTON RECREATION GROUND

Thank you for your letter dated 4th January 2000 regarding floodlighting of the water based pitch at Paddington Recreation Ground. Whilst I understand the interest of Hampstead and Westminster Hockey Club to install floodlighting on the water based pitch, the needs of the local residents must be taken into consideration. Although there has been huge improvements in the technology of floodlighting reducing the amount of spillage, light and noise levels would undoubtedly increase with the extended hours of use.

You are correct in stating that an extension in the hours of use would indeed result in an increase in income from the facility, however it is essential that a balance is achieved which satisfies both users of the recreation ground and local residents. The balance which is currently in place would be upset should a scheme of this nature proceed, possibly resulting in a detrimental impact on the recreation ground and its relationship with local residents.

For information a number of years ago a report outlining the implementation of floodlighting on the site of the new water based pitch was withdrawn before going to Committee as a result of the vociferous response from local residents.

I do understand Hampstead & Westminster Hockey Club's desire to grow and develop particularly with your successes on the pitch, however I am sure you understand the Council's perspective in ensuring that local residents needs are taken into account.

Yours sincerely

JEFF AUSTIN
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE