

Dear whoever it may concern ,

Re Pendle Local Plan 4th Edition

I am writing to express my deep concern over the inclusion of sites P083 and P111 in the building site analysis in the Pendle Local Plan 4th Edition currently out for consultation. potentially leading to construction on Barrowford road Sports Fields , a vital recreational space that provides countless benefits to our community. Our sports fields are far more than open spaces; they are centres of community health, youth development, and well-being. I am particularly concerned that the consultants writing the document "Sports Strategy and Action Plan" did not discuss any aspects of its contents with myself, as we are one of the biggest football clubs in Pendle, expanding, and the biggest user of the Barrowford Road pitches.

For generations, these fields have hosted local leagues, school games, family gatherings, and casual pick-up matches, bringing people of all ages together and fostering community spirit. In an era where physical and mental health challenges are on the rise, losing such a resource will deprive our residents—especially young people—of safe, accessible, and affordable places to stay active.

Sports fields provide a crucial outlet for fitness, teamwork, discipline, and stress relief. They promote a healthy lifestyle and contribute significantly to the well-being of everyone in the community, from children developing social skills to seniors staying active. Furthermore, the preservation of green space is essential for environmental health, offering natural areas that support biodiversity, reduce air pollution, and mitigate urban heat.

Turning our sports fields into construction sites erodes a valuable public asset that cannot easily be replaced. While development may bring short-term economic benefits, it should not come at the expense of community well-being and green spaces that serve future generations.

We respectfully urge you to reconsider these plans and explore alternative sites for construction that do not involve sacrificing community sports fields. Let's prioritize the health, happiness, and cohesion of our community by protecting these essential spaces.

An additional issue that I would like to raise is the need for more maintenance to improve the condition of the pitches. The owners, Nelson & Colne College are obligated to maintain the pitches as part of an agreement signed in 2010, which in my opinion is not being adhered to. I am confident that with the maintenance that the College committed to, we could achieve a much higher utilisation of the pitches even during periods of poor weather.

Thank you for considering this important request.

Sincerely,

Carl Jeffery

Chairman

Barrowford Celtic