

Denis M Browne  
15 The Butts  
Brentford  
Middlesex TW8 8BJ

t 020 8560 7548  
e [planning@brentfordcc.org.uk](mailto:planning@brentfordcc.org.uk)

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Ref: BCC 729 dmb

Dear Councillor,

**Brent Lea Recreation Ground: Proposed 125 Year Lease to Floreat  
For land to build 2FE free Primary School on Metropolitan Open Land**

The Brentford Community Council has asked me to write in support of "Save Our Rec", which is a new organisation, set up last month in response to the Council's proposal to build a Free School on the Brent Lea Recreation Ground.

The BCC has met with Council officers and with the Managing Director of Floreat and has written (BCC 727, attached) to all the members of the Cabinet urging that Metropolitan Land has to be protected and that another site should be found for this school.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> the Planning Committee agreed on a split vote to a temporary two year planning permission for the Floreat Free School to erect temporary buildings while they looked for a permanent site.

The BCC were therefore shocked that on June 16<sup>th</sup> the Cabinet approved a 125 year lease for a permanent school at Brent Lea, directly contradicting the case put to the planning committee the week before.

This raises several issues which should be considered by your Council's Scrutiny Committee:

1. Brent Lea is MOL, which should be protected like the Green Belt.
2. If MOL land is used for other purposes it should be replaced like for like.
3. When moving the 2 year temporary consent the mover of the resolution said that "she would ensure enforcement action be taken if Floreat failed to vacate the site in 2 years.
4. So why has Cabinet agreed to a 125 year lease.
5. When approving planning consents for so many residential developments in recent years and when considering the emerging Local Plan (2015-2030) and the draft plans for The Great West Road why has your Council not appreciated that these new flats require more open space and land for Primary and Secondary schools. If provision of land for open space and schools had been a requirement planned within the privately owned developments the developers would have paid less to acquire the land and no green space would have been threatened.

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6. Brent Lea has been identified as a site of historical and archaeological interest going back to Roman times and the investigation and protection of the site may prejudice the ridiculous opening date which is set for September 2015.

I am writing to you to ask you to join with ten other councillors to call-in this report to the Scutiny Committee.

Yours sincerely

Denis Browne  
Chairman, Planning Consultative committee  
Brentford Community Council.

