

MURAD QURESHI AM

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Boris Johnson
Mayor of London
City Hall
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Our ref: MQ /AC
Date 16 May 2014

Dear Mayor Johnson,

Moberly Sports and Education Centre (Jubilee Sports Centre)

I am writing to call on you to direct refusal for the application for the redevelopment of Moberly Sports and Education Centre (GLA ref D&P/3293/01 and Brent ref 13/3682), when it comes to the GLA.

This redevelopment is made possible by the demolition of the Jubilee Sports Centre in neighbouring Westminster. The existing Jubilee is a popular leisure centre serving the local community in one of Westminster's most deprived wards. It makes no sense to demolish this well-loved facility and replace it at great cost with another nearly a mile away in another borough.

The redevelopment is also a bad deal for Brent. The new facility will be expected to accommodate existing users and those who currently use the Jubilee. Populations in both boroughs are expected to rise, but this redevelopment does not represent a meaningful increase in provision.

I take issue with the claim that the replacement facility at Moberly will provide "a 40% increase in the availability of sports and leisure facilities in this part of north London", as Westminster City Council argues in its Planning Supporting Statement. In fact, it appears that the new facility will simply replace the current offers at the existing Moberly and Jubilee centres, albeit with slightly more space and with the addition of a boxing ring. For example, the proposed 25-metre pool and smaller 'teaching pool' would replace the existing 25-metre pool at Jubilee. The 1442 square metres of sports halls in the existing Moberly and Jubilee centres would be replaced by 1550 square metres of sports halls in the new facility. These changes do not justify the demolition of the existing Jubilee Sports Centre and forcing local residents to travel outside of the borough to access sports facilities.

Based on this analysis, the demolition of the Jubilee Sports Centre and redevelopment of the Moberly Sports Centre does not sit well with London Plan Policy 3.19 Sports Facilities.

If London seeks to continue to capitalise on the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by securing a sporting legacy, we must ensure that high-quality sports facilities are accessible to the widest number of people. The demolition of a much-loved facility is surely contrary to this goal.

When this application is received by the GLA and you make your Stage II decision, I ask you to consider these points and to direct refusal of the application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murad Qureshi', with a horizontal line underneath.

Murad Qureshi AM
LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER