



SPORTING CHANCE: Children at Stockwell Park High School are campaigning for more playing hours g7379/C

Kids in play battle with neighbours

CHILDREN campaigning to keep their sports pitches open longer have sparked a battle with furious residents.

Youngsters at Stockwell Park High School in Clapham Road, Stockwell, want to play football, hockey, basketball and cricket into the evening during the week and for extra hours on Saturday afternoons.

But neighbours of the site say the extra noise and floodlighting will cause them more disturbance.

The multi-use games area (MUGA) is open to the community when the school is not using it.

The school says it wants longer opening times so people in the area can use it, and has submitted a planning application to Lambeth council.

Petition

It has launched a petition to get support for the application.

Headteacher Judette Tapper, said the longer opening hours would benefit everyone and hoped the whole community would get behind the plans.

She said: "There are not enough good sports facilities in the area for the community.

"The Olympics is a great opportunity to get more kids into sport and we want to make the most of our facilities for everyone's benefit."

Julie Dao, a Year 7 student, said: "I've been doing well in sport and I'm getting much fitter.

"I'm really hoping we get more time to play sport because it's good for everyone and people are really much more into it with the

By KATE GOULD

Olympics coming up. Please support our MUGA campaign!"

Residents near the site say the existing noise and floodlighting are already intrusive – and claim longer hours will make the situation worse.

Maurice Cronly, of the Stockwell Park Residents' Association, said: "We feel there is no justification for wanting these extra hours and are very much against the proposal.

"The MUGA is in the wrong location and we campaigned against it when it was first given planning permission as it's right next to people's houses.

"When the floodlights are on, it's very bright, particularly for those whose houses back on to the site.

"It is also very noisy and, with extra hours, there will be more people using the facility and therefore more noise at a time when families will be trying to get their children to bed.

"We don't believe the extra hours are justified and hope the planning committee rejects the application."

The school wants its games area to open until 8pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays – two hours later – and 4pm on Saturdays – an extra three and a half hours.

A decision will be made by Lambeth's planning committee on June 12.

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