

I represent CityPark4Brum and the 11,000 people who support our campaign for a transformative park at Smithfield.

Our first issue with the application is the size of the public open space. The two main areas, Manor Square and Smithfield Park, are too small, with the park only half the size of Cathedral Square. In fact, as the council acknowledges on page 13 of its report, the application completely falls foul of its own rules on open space requirements in new developments.

But off-site agreements to address this elsewhere in the city will only worsen the green space deficit for residents in Smithfield's red ward of Bordesley and Highgate, where environmental and health inequalities are at their highest.

Our second issue is the public open space design, in particular the lack of connectivity between Manor Square and Smithfield Park, with the park itself isolated & completely boxed in. This sends an implicit message that the park, on public land in the heart of our city, is not for the benefit of the wider public.

So we request a deferral of the decision, to allow us to work further with Lendlease to prioritise and guarantee the layout now for public open space at Smithfield. With its economic and health benefits, it is too important to be an afterthought. And it can be done - the council has our indicative plan that puts green space literally at the heart of Smithfield and increases the public open space provision to 25%.

Let's take this unique opportunity to address the green space deficit for existing and new city centre residents, ensuring a prosperous and healthy outcome for generations to come.