

**Town Councillor Peter Elkin,
Cheadle South East,
1 Conway Grove,
Cheadle,
Staffs,
ST10 1QG**

Saturday, 03 September 2016

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Department,
Moorlands House,
Stockwell Street,
Leek,
Staffs,
ST13 1HQ,
Attention of Mr Ben Hurst.

Dear Mr Hurst,

Certificate of lawful development for an existing use to accommodate residential care of young persons (resubmission of SMD/2015/0614)

Re the above. I am the Cheadle Town Councillor for Cheadle South East and I wish to pass comment re the application for a certificate of Lawful Development for an existing use to accommodate residential care of young persons (resubmission of SMD/2015/0614)

As you are no doubt aware, Ivy House causes much distress in the locality and as the Ward Councillor I have received many complaints. Problems regarding Anti Social behaviour are rife, I have indeed knowledge of fighting and disturbance on the street and on one occasion the next door neighbour who is Mr Bentley, along with his his wife and daughter had to lock themselves in their bungalow and Mr Bentley was assaulted. Loud music, obscene language, trespassing on the next door neighbour's property, drug taking has been seen.

All these points have been highlighted by two recent Ofsted Reports. One report of the 29/10/2015 stated that "One young person had become involved in an exploitative relationship with an agency staff member. The agency worker encouraged her to tell lies about their unauthorised secretive and collusive activities".

"Inspectors were aware during this inspection that serious allegations of a child protection nature were being investigated by the appropriate authorities".

Another report on the 24/02/2016 stated among other points that the home had become shabby in places due to violent and challenging behaviour of young people. This led to staff removing soft furnishings and pictures for safety reasons. In this same report a young person had been subject to racist bullying by another person in the home and is currently missing.

In this same report it is stated that despite a clear bullying policy being in place, another young person was repeatedly bullied and racially abused by a peer. There have been many incidents of bullying, smoking cannabis, absconding, threats made to staff, criminal damage to the home and assault, which staff have been unable to prevent or significantly improve.

This really is a most undesirable place. Whilst much of the evidence (Ofsted reports on 24/02/16 and 29/10/2015) are centred within the four walls of the home, many problems in the neighbourhood are serious and are caused by this home.

It is an entirely unsuitable site for a children's home being in the close vicinity to quarry working with a deep, perilous lagoon nearby.

Traffic levels are also high, being as the home is on a bad bend, lorries carrying aggregates from the quarry often experience near miss type accidents with numerous Ivy House visitor and staff cars parked there.

I hope very much that you will give this letter your full attention and for the sake of the neighbourhood please refuse the certificate of Lawful Development for an existing use to accommodate residential care of young persons (resubmission of SMD/2015/0614)

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Peter Elkin.

Town Council member for Cheadle South East.

Copy to Mr Simon Baker and Mr Ben Hurst.