Burnett, James

From: planning@staffmoorlands.gov.uk
Sent: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 11:30 PM
To: Planning (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : SMD/2016/0707 Site Address: 20 Derby Street Leek Staffordshire ST13 5AB Leek
Comments by: Paul Yates
From:

Phone:
Email:
Submission: Objection
Comments: Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to object against the proposed plans to let Card Factory not only change the shop frontage of a property in a conservation area, but also object to allowing them to trade at all in a town that currently is in the top 10 High streets in the country for its diversity, and its strength of independent retailers. For years the local council have fought hard to protect the local businesses in making Leek what it is today. A thriving market town with its local independent retailers trading in a unique picturesque town. Retaining the old fashioned values and the old fashioned buildings. The authorities have fought to stop Leek becoming just another High street full of the big chain stores that monopolies the towns and have every other shop boarded up saying " To Let " or " For Sale ".

It's not that we are short of card shops anyway. We have at least 10 shops that specialise in cards, we have another 8 that have cards on spinners etc, plus all the major supermarkets have very large footage designated to cards. What we haven't got is another bedding shop other than the Pondon Mill which operates in the property at the moment. The statistics show that 40 % of businesses close down when the national chains move in to town because they simply can't compete.

So to summarise, if we let this application go ahead.

1) We will have changed and not preserved our listed building.

2) We will see the closure of many Independent shops.

3) We will see " To Let " or " For Sale " boards all over town.

4) We will see at least 40 people looking for work.

5) We will be on the slippery slope to becoming just another ghost town like half the nation at the moment.

These thoughts and comments are shared by lots of the local community.

Please don't let this happen.

These comments also apply to the other application SMD/2016/0708 as well.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this objection.