

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 19 October 2021 18:21:09

Application Reference No. : SMD/2021/0649 Site Address: Oak Lodge Sandy Lane Brown Edge Staffordshire ST6 8QJ Stoke-On-Trent Comments by: Mrs H Bowler

From:

16
Sandy Lane
Brown Edge
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
ST6 8QJ

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: As a resident of Brown Edge I am alarmed that there has been no public consultation regarding this matter; no opportunity to ask questions, to find out further information, to discuss the matter with SMDC, no real opportunity to raise concerns. To the best of my knowledge the majority of people became aware of this recent application thanks to social media.

Having studied the planning application for Oak Lodge to have a change of use from Class C3 (dwelling house) to Class C2 (residential institution), it is evident that the organisation submitting the application have the interests of the children who would occupy the property at the centre of it. However, I have the interest of my family, my children, my neighbours, and property to consider, and I ultimately have concerns about this very sudden development.

In particular I would like to highlight the following points found within the application:

Page 4

"The application site comprises a two-storey semi-detached property....."

"A risk assessment would be undertaken to ensure that the residence is appropriate for the chosen children".

I understand that Ofsted inspectors have to be reassured that new homes are appropriately and suitably located. This is a semi-detached property with a family living in the adjoining property and to the other side of the property is the Methodist Church which gets a very brief mention on page 8 of the application. This Methodist Church is also known as Sandy Lane Centre. The centre is occupied by a Pre-School during the week, providing childcare to local children; it is also hired for various groups and classes during weekday evenings and weekends (for example a local dance school use the facility, exercise groups etc). The safeguarding of all children should be paramount.

Regarding the risk assessment, what would be the criteria for residency at this residential institution?
Considering the location of the property, would any occupants pose a risk to children?

Page 8

"children who are placed in these homes are often stigmatised for being in care....."

Page 10

"The children in care would come from traumatic living environments....."

No child/anybody should experience traumatic living experiences. All children matter and all children deserve a safe, warm home environment. However, it is well researched and well documented that children living in care settings can often display challenging behaviours, sometimes anti-social behavior, and government statistics have shown that rates of offending in care are significantly higher than peer groups.

Other factors to consider include privacy, noise, traffic, and parking.

I live on Sandy Lane, I have a young family and I am worried about this proposed change of use; I am concerned about the impact on the local area and residents.

Do you really need to print out this Email? Be green - keep it on the screen.

This email is intended for the addressee(s) only and may contain sensitive, privileged or confidential information that could be protectively marked. If you are not the addressee please do not use the information in any way. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system. Thank you.

The Council may be required to disclose this email or any responses to it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The way in which we handle personal information is set out in our privacy notice and is available at <https://www.staffs Moorlands.gov.uk/YourData>
