

From: [Chris Holleran](#)
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Re: Planning Application SMD/2024/0509
Date: 10 January 2025 18:42:24

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding the proposed planning application SMD/2024/0509, which seeks to convert the unoccupied first and second floors of The Old Court House, High Street, Leek, into 12 residential units. As a resident of Field Street, which is located in the immediate vicinity of the development, I wish to raise a serious objection on the grounds of its significant impact on parking in the area.

Field Street, like most of the surrounding streets, consists of terraced houses with no off-street parking. The existing demand for parking already far exceeds availability, and the situation has become untenable. The addition of 12 new residential units, potentially with multiple vehicles associated with each household, will only exacerbate an already critical issue.

Currently, residents of Field Street often struggle to find parking near their homes. For me personally, as a parent of a young child, the inability to park close to my home presents significant challenges. On numerous occasions, I have had to park two or three streets away, making it difficult to carry shopping or larger items to or from my house. This issue is even more acute during weekday working hours, as employees from the town centre use Field Street and other residential streets to avoid paying for council car parks and people seek to use the towns only post office also located on High Street. The problem now also extends into the evening due to the opening of the Chennai Indian and Duck Goose on High Street, which attract diners who further compete for limited parking spaces. Millward Hall on Salisbury Street has also recently converted to residential units which has in turn added yet more pressure to this increased demand for parking spaces.

Adding 12 new domiciles without addressing parking provisions will not only intensify these issues but will also create unsafe conditions for residents, particularly for families with children. Increased congestion and the likelihood of illegal or inappropriate parking could impede access for emergency services and pose risks to pedestrians.

I would like to suggest that the council consider implementing a resident parking permit scheme on local streets to discourage the use of residential streets by non-residents during the day. Or offering a parking permit to local residents for the relatively large council-operated car park on High Street. Either of these solutions would help alleviate the current parking crisis while supporting the development of new housing in the area.

I strongly urge the council to consider the severe parking implications of this application. If this development is to proceed, measures such as the proposed parking permit scheme or dedicated off-street parking for the new residences must be implemented to mitigate the impact. Without such provisions, I believe this development will have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for residents of Field Street and the surrounding area.

Thank you for taking my concerns into account. I trust that they will be given due consideration during the decision-making process.

Yours faithfully,

Christopher Holleran

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