

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
To: [Planning Comments \(SMDC\)](#)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access
Date: 31 January 2025 15:04:42

Application Reference No. : SMD/2024/0534
Site Address: 173A Leek Road Endon Staffordshire ST9 9EF Stoke On Trent
Comments by: L Barnett
From:

Platts Avenue
Endon
Endon

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: I would like to lodge my objection to the proposed change of use based on the following reasons:

1. Insufficient off road provision for proposed parking, the plan suggests the drive plus garage can accommodate 6 cars. A brief look at Google maps satellite view shows two average sized cars in the drive with room only for one further car on the drive. The suggested 5 outdoor parking spaces is unrealistic unless they are all very small. There is a strong likelihood of this traffic impacting on the shared driveway (I feel for the neighbours) and the pavement which will have significantly more cars crossing to access the property.

2. As a result of the number of cars there is likely to be a need to rearrange them as staff arrive and leave, this will inevitably impact on traffic flow on Leek Road, especially at peak morning times given that shift times are 8am. Planning suggests that there would be no more traffic than a family home, however there is potential for each staff member to have a car, at shift changes this means negotiating multiple cars onto/offsite- very different to a family home traffic.

3. The application refers to visits from professionals being rare. As the children will be considered 'Looked After', they will have regular statutory social work visits. The planning application minimises the frequency of visits but realistically depending on the child's circumstances and which Local Authority they fall under this is likely to mean multiple different professional visits across the month, adding to existing local parking issues and most likely to impact on nearby side streets already under pressure at school pick up/drop off times.

4. The nature of the children's needs are variously described as behaviourally challenging and learning disability related depending on which part of the application, New Focus website and one of the New Focus workers responses on Facebook. This same individual also stated there would be no adverse impact on the community but later stated that police would visit regularly to check on the children, this is not a typical police function and the statements are contradictory. This raises concerns about ensuring the children's safety (on a busy main road, limited detail on overnight staffing - numbers are shared but no mention of waking nights). And impact on existing residents due to the potential for increased antisocial behaviour and increased noise from having up to 10 people in the house/garden, sound travels in Endon. Property value impact has been noted on other objections, and will no doubt be disputed, however as a buyer would you choose a property next to a children's residential home over a standard occupancy neighbour?

5. Finally I note that the application refers to stigma attached to being in care. I absolutely agree with this but would argue that choosing a property directly adjacent to a high school will increase rather than decrease any stigma. People will know the children live there and this may cause tensions for the children and potentially provide a target for the current antisocial behaviour problems in Endon.

As noted above a worker from New Focus has posted responses on Facebook when planning is mentioned on the local Endon group. These posts seem to imply that the change of use is a 'done deal' and will be decided purely on planning issues. If public views of the people most affected by the proposed change will have no weight then I find that very disappointing.

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