

S.M.D.C. PLANNING DEPT.

30 OCT 2025

MRS S. MIDDLETON
c/o 386, ASH BANK ROAD
WERRINGTON
ST9 0JR
28TH OCTOBER 2025

DEAR SIR/MADAM

Re: SMDC/2025/0376 - CHANGE OF USE OF 388, ASH BANK ROAD

I AM WRITING IN REGARD TO PLANNING APPLICATION SMDC/2025/0376, CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF 388, ASH BANK ROAD, WERRINGTON FROM A PRIVATE RESIDENCE TO A CHILDREN'S HOME. I WISH TO RAISE STRONG OBJECTIONS AND SERIOUS CONCERNS ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY PARTNER, MR. SPENCER HODGETTS OF 386, ASH BANK ROAD, WERRINGTON. ALSO MANY LOCAL RESIDENTS WITHIN ASH BANK VILLAGE.

THE PROPERTY IN QUESTION IS SITUATED EXTREMELY CLOSE TO MR. HODGETTS HOME, WITH APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET SEPARATING THE TWO PROPERTIES. THIS PROXIMITY MEANS THAT ANY INCREASE IN NOISE, ACTIVITY, OR SURVEILLANCE (SUCH AS THE INSTALLATION OF CAMERAS) WILL HAVE A DIRECT AND INTRUSIVE IMPACT ON HIS PRIVACY AND WELL BEING.

MR. HODGETTS IS 79 YEARS OLD AND TAKES GREAT PLEASURE IN MAINTAINING HIS HOME AND GARDEN. THE POTENTIAL FOR NOISE AND DISTURBANCE, AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ASSOCIATION WITH SUCH AN ESTABLISHMENT WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT HIS QUALITY OF LIFE. HIS HEALTH COULD ALSO BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED, PARTICULARLY AS HE USES HIS HOT TUB FOR THERAPEUTIC REASONS, AND THIS AMENITY WOULD BE COMPROMISED BY LOSS OF PRIVACY AND PEACE.

FIRSTLY, IT APPEARS THAT THIS APPLICATION HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY PUBLICISED OR DISTRIBUTED AMONG LOCAL RESIDENTS IN ASH BANK VILLAGE. MANY NEIGHBOURS WERE UNAWARE OF THE PROPOSAL AND HAVE HAD NO FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK OR EXPRESS THEIR CONCERNS.

FURTHER, THE OFSTED REPORTS CONCERNING SIMILAR HOMES RAISE SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS, INCLUDING THE USE OF RESTRAINT ON CHILDREN AGED 6 TO 16, MANY OF WHOM MAY HAVE BEHAVIOURAL OR EMOTIONAL DIFFICULTIES. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND AND FULLY SUPPORT THE NEED FOR SUITABLE ACCOMMODATION FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN, THE LOCATION OF THIS PARTICULAR HOME IS UNSUITABLE DUE TO THE SURROUNDING ELDERLY POPULATION AND THE FAMILY ORIENTATED NATURE OF THE AREA.

THERE ARE ALSO EXISTING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES WITHIN ASH BANK, WHICH WOULD LIKELY BE EXAGGERATED BY THE PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE. THE CLOSE PROXIMITY OF THE NEW-BUILD HOMES, BEHIND 388, ASH BANK ROAD FURTHER INCREASE THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS WHO WOULD EXPERIENCE A DECLINE IN NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY AND COMMUNITY HARMONY.

IN SUMMARY, THE PROPOSED CONVERSION OF 388, ASH BANK ROAD, INTO A CHILDREN'S HOME WOULD:-

- ADVERSELY AFFECT THE PRIVACY, SECURITY AND WELLBEING OF NEIGHBORING RESIDENTS.
- EXAGGERATE EXISTING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CONCERNS WITHIN THE AREA.
- PLACE VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT MAY NOT SUPPORT THEIR BEST INTERESTS.
- CAUSE DISTRESS AND HEALTH IMPACTS, PARTICULARLY TO ELDERLY RESIDENTS SUCH AS MR. HODGETTS.

FOR THESE REASONS I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT REFUSE APPLICATION SMD/2025/0376, OR AT THE VERY LEAST, CONDUCT A THOROUGH REVIEW AND A PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO ENSURE THAT THE VOICES OF AFFECTED RESIDENTS ARE HEARD.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS LETTER AND CONFIRMATION THAT MY OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN RECORDED.

KIND REGARDS