

From: planningcomments@staffs Moorlands.gov.uk
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To: Planning Comments (SMDC)
Subject: Comment Received from Public Access

Application Reference No. : SMD/2026/0079 Site Address: 257 Bank LEEK ROAD ENDON STAFFORDSHIRE ST9 9HQ
Stoke On Trent Comments by: Lisa Espley
From:

Harrison Road
Norton in the Moors
Norton

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Submission: Support

Comments: I wish to express my support for this application.

The proposal relates to a modest single-storey extension to an established physiotherapy clinic in Endon in order to provide a dedicated rehabilitation gym. Facilities of this nature provide important benefits to the local community by supporting recovery from injury, chronic pain management, post-operative rehabilitation and the maintenance of long-term mobility.

When considering planning applications it is important that design considerations are balanced against the wider social and community benefits that a development may deliver. The Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan, including Policy DC1, seeks development that contributes positively to local character while also helping to create healthy and active environments for residents. A rehabilitation facility that supports physical recovery and wellbeing aligns directly with this objective.

Local authority strategies across Staffordshire also place strong emphasis on improving health outcomes, encouraging physical activity and supporting residents to live healthy and independent lives. Rehabilitation and physiotherapy services play an important role in preventative healthcare and can help reduce pressure on NHS services by providing accessible recovery and mobility support within the community.

There is also clear evidence that local authorities are investing in facilities that support health and wellbeing. Significant investment has recently been committed to the redevelopment of a major wellness and health facility in Leek to improve health outcomes and provide expanded wellbeing services within the district. In this context, enabling an established physiotherapy provider to expand its rehabilitation services locally is consistent with the broader strategic direction of supporting health infrastructure and preventative care.

The proposal would also support the local economy by allowing a successful local healthcare provider to expand its services, supporting employment and maintaining access to essential services within a rural community. Access to rehabilitation services locally is particularly important for residents who may otherwise need to travel further afield for treatment.

It is also worth noting that extensions and alterations to existing buildings are a common and accepted form of development throughout the Staffordshire Moorlands district. Planning records show that rear and side extensions to existing buildings are regularly granted permission where they are considered acceptable in planning terms. The Council's Design Guide provides useful guidance on achieving high quality design but also recognises that well-designed contemporary additions can be appropriate where they remain respectful of the host building and its setting.

In this case the proposed development represents a relatively modest extension that would allow an established healthcare service to grow and better serve the needs of local residents. The clear community health, wellbeing and economic benefits of the proposal should therefore be given significant weight in the planning balance.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage the Council to support this application.

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