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

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Application Reference No. : SMD/2026/0250 Site Address: John Munroe Independent Hospital Reacliffe Road
Rudyard Staffordshire ST13 8RU Leek Comments by: Stuart M Pigott

From:

Half Acres
Camrose Hill
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Submission: Objection

Comments: Half Acres

Camrose Hill

Rudyard

Leek

ST13 8RU

29th July 2026

Dear Case Officer

Objection to Planning Application John Munroe Hospital C2 to C2a SMD/2026/0250

I am writing to state my vehement objection to the above planning application, namely the change of use from C2 to C2A.

The overriding objection to this is based on the fact that the JMH site (and my property which is adjacent to the High Ash bungalow on the JMH site) sit within the Rudyard Conservation Area.

Any developments or changes in such areas should preserve, restore or enhance the important historical architecture and general surrounding environment of the area, these are the values which everyone at SMDC and local residents in the conservation area have been working hard to follow since its inception in July 2016, because we all cherish the rural charm, peaceful and historic nature of the area and its buildings.

A C2A classification would by definition be a high security area, with perimeter security fencing reaching over 5 metres in height, low level dusk to dawn illumination, and vandal resistant lighting mounted on 6 metre columns. These would be visible from the road, the adjacent footpaths and the neighbouring properties, as well as being intrusive and disruptive to local wildlife and birdlife.

This does not preserve, restore or enhance the area but in fact does the reverse of all these aims.

Granting this change of use would make a mockery of the whole idea of a Conservation Area and the example set would lead to a general demise, deterioration and loss of this village asset to the Staffordshire Moorlands area.

Secondly, but no less importantly, the location of the facility being in between Horton Lodge Community Special School, St Michael's First School and their Forest school outside area would be extremely dangerous from a safety and security aspect and would ultimately lead to these schools' closure as parents removed their children from these schools for alternative safer and less threatening environments. There is the additional threat of verbal abuse, shouting and profanities being overheard by pupils in these schools, this often occurred during the later operational years of the John Munroe Hospital.

Thirdly, there would be an adverse impact on local residents. Having been a neighbour of the establishment for 20 years, during the period when it was a psychiatric hospital, we frequently heard objectionable language, shouting, witnessed escaped patients, lock down situations and general nuisance from the operation of the facility. The last 3 years during its' closure have been idyllic - just how the area should be. The change to C2A would be a severe retrograde step to a potentially worse and more dangerous state of affairs than it used to be in this tranquil village setting.

The final point of objection is with regard to general location and the road infrastructure serving it. This is already a busy minor road, used at all times of the day by commuters between local towns, school traffic and general commercial vehicles to local farms and businesses. No public transport serves this location, so all traffic would be via private vehicles. There would be a significant increase in traffic for secure inmate transport as well as the shift workers who would be working at the facility. This is particularly objectionable to local residents with increased noise and traffic danger. A class C2A high security detention centre should not be located in such close proximity to a sensitive residential and schooling area.

I strongly suggest the outright refusal to this change of use application.

Yours faithfully

Stuart Pigott

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