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

Categories: [REDACTED]

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

From:

Hawthorne Cottage
Dunwood Lane
Rudyard
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Staffordshire
ST13 8RG

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Submission: Objection

Comments: I am writing to formally object to the planning application seeking to change the classification of John Munroe Hospital from Class C2 (Residential Institution) to Class C2A (Secure Residential Institution).

My reasons for objecting are set out below:

1. Safety, Public Protection, and Impact on Local Amenities

Impact on Local Primary School: My family lives locally, and we intended to send our two young children to Horton St. Michael's CE First School, our local school. Introducing a C2A secure facility directly jeopardises the safety and perception of safety in the immediate vicinity. If this application is approved, we will not send our children to this school. This directly impacts local rural schools that rely heavily on intake from local families to remain viable.

Impact on Recreational Use and Mental Wellbeing: My wife and I, alongside many other local residents, regularly use the area surrounding the lake for running and recreation, often early in the morning or in the evening. Converting this site into a secure prison-style facility creates significant safety concerns, deterring residents from utilising a key community amenity that actively supports local physical and mental health.

2. Green Belt and Visual Amenity

Inappropriate Development: As the site is located within the Green Belt, proposed developments require strict scrutiny regarding their impact on openness and character.

Visual Harm: The installation of high-security fencing and extensive CCTV arrays is fundamentally out of character with the rural aesthetic of the area and represents a visually intrusive development that harms the local landscape.

3. Traffic, Noise, and Residential Amenity

Increased Traffic Generation: Operating a 24/7 secure facility will lead to a substantial increase in vehicle movements along a narrow, rural road network, including staff shift changes, visitors, deliveries, and secure transport vehicles.

Disturbance: Shift changes occurring late at night or early in the morning will cause unacceptable noise pollution and light disturbance, directly conflicting with the quiet, rural character of the area and disrupting local residents and young families.

4. Process and Community Consultation

Timing of Application: I would also like to express serious concern regarding the timing of this application, which coincided with school holidays. This significantly limited the ability of local educational institutions and the wider community to properly assess the proposals and submit fully considered representations.

For the reasons outlined above regarding safety, Green Belt impact, highways issues, and residential amenity, I strongly urge the planning committee to refuse this application.

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