About the application

Application number: 2022/92097	
What is the application for?:	Erection of two storey extension and alterations
Address of the site or building:	The Veterinary Hospital, 131, Somerset Road, Almondbury, Huddersfield, HD5 8HN
Postcode:	HD5 8HN

User comments

Type of comment: An objection	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	Yes

My objection to the proposed extension to the vetinary hospital is on the basis of its impact on highway safety and traffic.
The planning application states that that the additional rooms are to facilitate increased patient throughput and that the the number of car parking spaces and number of employees at the site will not change. However increased patient throughput will mean increased traffic and parking at the site and in the surrounding area even if staff numbers remain constant.
Since the opening of the hospital the applicants have been subject to numerous complaints regarding the increase in on-street parking in the area blocking access and causing potential hazards.
The fact that the applicants have commissioned a report on parking on the site and surrounding area indicates that they know that their staff are not parking in the carpark as per the original planning approval, and that they are already causing problems for local residents and issues with traffic safety. However the technical paper regarding parking is superficial, and contains speculation and inaccuracies, for example:
"The same cars were observed outside the same properties in several instances leading to the conclusion that
they belonged to that household" - This conclusion is not valid, staff members habitually park their vehicles in the same places in the surrounding area.
"No parking was observed on Somerset Road south of the site" - Since the opening of the hospital the parking bay 150m south of the site on Somerset road has become increasingly congested, garage entrances have been completely obstructed on occasion and lines of sight for vehicles exiting garages onto Somerset Rd in this area are being severely restricted.
The report states that the car-park is currently at 60-85% usage and as staff are parking on street this must be mainly patient parking. The application did not specify the likely % increase in patient throughput, however a 20% increase in patient throughput would exceed capacity of the car-park at times, leading to yet more on street parking in an already congested area.