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

I strongly object to this application on the ground on highways safety and design.

In the original Transport statement for the original planning approval, it stated that the vets needed 43 spaces, comprising of 24 visitor, 10 vets and 9 for other staff. This was clearly a fabrication. I live on Longley Road with a good view of the hospital. There are 2 maybe 3 cars parked on the road overnight. From 7am to 8am around 15 and 20 arrive and park at the bottom end our road alone (maybe more on other surrounding roads) as the day staff arrive for their shifts. Always 1 person per car, generally wearing scrubs (uniform) and they walk to the vets. The original reports suggested their staff would walk, cycle, use the bus and car share. I have never in the past few years since it opened ever seen any evidence of this.

The traffic report for this new application, uses photos from during the pandemic to reduce impact and picks and chooses its narrative to suit their argument. It also suggests there is no problem with residents. That is categorically not true. There have been many incidents. The staff have little or no regard for who they upset or where they park as long as they don't have to walk so far. The road has gone from having good visibility and being relatively quiet to having poor visibility especially when entering and exiting driveways as cars and are parked tightly either side of each drive and due to the stagger of properties, cars are usually parked across as well. Mornings, with school buses, work traffic and sometimes refuse wagons make it very congested, dangerous and an accident waiting to happen. Especially so close to the busy junction of Somerset Road. The bus also has to stop in the middle of the road as the staff park at the bus stop.

To suggest adding extra consulting rooms will not lead to an increase in staff and therefore parking is clearly just not true and impossible to justify. Give the previous misinformation of the reports I'd suggest take this with a pinch of salt.

The council got this wrong allowing a building of this size in this location in the first place, lets hope it does exacerbate the problem by allowing this extension.

Finally, as a subjective opinion, the extension is a really poor design. I’d go as far as saying it’s a carbuncle tagged onto the end of an already aesthetically poor original building. It is not very in-keeping the ornate Victorian stone terraces it faces across Somerset Road.

I urge the council to refuse this.