Address: 12 Hambledon Avenue Holmfirth HD9 4DP

About the application

Application number: 2025/90116	
What is the application for?:	Change of use from class C3 (dwellinghouse) to mixed use dwellinghouse and class
Address of the site or building:	42, Birmingham Lane, Meltham, Holmfirth, HD9 5LH
Postcode:	HD9 5LH

User comments

Type of comment: A supporting comment	
Do you wish your comments to be published on the website anonymously?	No

The proposed non-approval of this planning application, and the subsequent closure of this vital childminding service, poses a significant threat to the Meltham community and would create substantial hardship for numerous local families. The scarcity of alternative childcare provisions in the area, including nurseries and other childminding options, means that closure would leave a considerable gap in essential childcare services. This would inevitably lead to a cascade of negative consequences for families, impacting their work schedules, finances, and overall well-being.

For many families in Meltham, this childminding service is not simply a convenience, but a lifeline. The lack of readily available alternatives means that parents would face significantly increased travel distances to access childcare, leading to escalating fuel costs at a time when household budgets are already stretched thin. Beyond the financial burden, the increased commute times would also translate to less time spent with children and added stress for parents juggling work and family responsibilities.

Furthermore, the closure of this service would result in the loss of crucial informal support networks that are so vital for families. These networks, often built around shared school runs, after-school care arrangements, and mutual support between parents, are essential for navigating the challenges of raising children. The absence of these informal support systems would leave families feeling more isolated and vulnerable. The impact would be particularly felt by families who rely on grandparents or other relatives for assistance with school runs, as the closure would disrupt these established arrangements and place additional burdens on already stretched family members.

Our family, residing in close proximity to the childminding service, has directly benefited from its invaluable contribution to the community. The convenience of being able to walk our daughter to and from the setting has been instrumental in allowing us to maintain punctual and consistent work schedules. This proximity also plays a crucial role in minimizing our family's contribution to local traffic congestion, a factor that is increasingly important in our efforts to create a more sustainable and environmentally friendly community. The closure of this service would force us, and likely many other families, to rely on car journeys for childcare, exacerbating traffic issues and increasing our carbon footprint.

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Our daughter has attended this setting since she was just four months old, and it has become an integral part of her life. She has thrived under the care of the dedicated and nurturing staff, forming strong bonds with her peers and developing a positive and trusting rapport with the caregivers. The consistency and stability of this environment have been crucial for her development, providing her with a safe and stimulating space to learn and grow. The thought of disrupting her established routine and removing her from this supportive community is deeply concerning. We are worried about the potential negative impact on her emotional well-being and developmental progress, given the strong attachments she has formed and the sense of belonging she feels within this setting.
The non-approval of this planning application and the subsequent closure of the childminding service would represent a substantial loss for the entire village of Meltham and the families it serves. Beyond the immediate impact on families, the closure would also result in job losses at a time of economic uncertainty. The loss of these jobs would further contribute to the economic hardship facing the community. The ripple effect of this closure would be felt throughout the village, diminishing the quality of life for residents and undermining the community spirit that makes Meltham such a desirable place to live.
We implore the planning committee to carefully consider the far-reaching consequences of their decision. We urge them to recognize the vital role this childminding service plays in supporting families, fostering community, and contributing to the overall well-being of Meltham. We respectfully request that the planning committee approve this application and allow this essential service to continue serving the community for years to come. The continued operation of this childminding service is not just about childcare; it's about supporting families, strengthening our community, and investing in the future of Meltham.