

I am writing to strongly object to the above planning application. While I support the principle of providing safe accommodation for children in care, this property and location are wholly unsuitable. Approval would have a significant negative impact on the wider community. I trust the Council will exercise its duty of care to protect the rights and wellbeing of existing residents when making its decision.

1. Change of Character of the Area

The proposal would alter the established character of a quiet residential estate, introducing a business into a residential area intended for family housing and retirement living would have no positive impact on the wider community.

2. Parking and Highway Safety

The property has limited off-street parking. Staff, visitors, and service vehicles would inevitably create congestion and pose risks to both residents and pedestrians.

3. Noise, Disturbance, and Community Safety

Frequent comings and goings at unsociable hours would generate disturbance in a currently peaceful neighbourhood. Children with complex needs may be placed here under circumstances beyond their control, increasing the likelihood of anti-social behaviour and police presence. This would cause distress and intimidation for nearby residents. As residents we would expect civic authorities to uphold their responsibilities in reducing anti social behaviour and mitigating risks to the community.

4. Over-concentration of Similar Uses

There is already another children's home within one mile (application 2023/CL/92829/W). Adding another would lead to over-concentration, undermining community balance and cohesion. This would raises questions about whether the proposed manager has the capacity, experience and qualifications to operate multiple homes effectively and safely.

5. Deed of Covenant Restriction

Properties on Woodland Glade are bound by a deed of covenant stipulating residential use only. A change to C2 classification would breach this restriction by enabling business use. The local planning authority should verify and uphold this covenant.

Conclusion

While children's homes are essential, this location is not appropriate, for multiple reasons. The adverse effects on community safety, amenity, and residents' quality of life clearly outweighs any potential benefits.

I therefore urge the Council to refuse this application.