

Community Loss Statement

Proposed Change of Use
The Silent Woman Public House
Nabbs Lane
Slaithwaite
Huddersfield
HD7 5A

1. Summary

Proposed Change of Use of The Silent Woman Public House, Slaithwaite, to a Children's Day Nursery Introduction This Community Loss Statement has been prepared in support of the proposed change of use of The Silent Woman, Slaithwaite, from a public house (Use Class Sui Generis) to a children's day nursery (Use Class E(f)).

The proposal has carefully considered the contribution the existing public house has made to the local community, together with the community benefits that would arise from the proposed nursery use. It is also noted that the property has experienced previous issues relating to licensing, which have affected its operation as a public house and further demonstrate the challenges in sustaining this use.

2. Existing Community Use

The Silent Woman has historically served as a public house, providing a venue for social interaction and hospitality. While the contribution of public houses to community life is recognised, the proposal reflects changing local needs and seeks to ensure the continued beneficial use of the building.

The proposal would not result in the loss of all community facilities within Slaithwaite. The village continues to be served by a range of alternative public houses, cafés, restaurants, community venues and meeting places that provide opportunities for social interaction and recreation.

3. Proposed Community Benefit

The proposed children's day nursery would continue the building's role as a community facility by providing an essential service for local families.

The proposal responds to identified local childcare demand in Slaithwaite and the surrounding area, where accessible and flexible nursery places are important to support working households, parents returning to employment and families seeking high-quality early years provision close to home. The need for additional nursery capacity is supported by wider evidence that childcare availability can be a significant constraint on the labour market participation and family wellbeing, and that increased provision helps to address unmet demand, reduce pressure on existing settings and improve choice for parents and carers.

The nursery would:

- Provide high-quality early years education and childcare for children within Slaithwaite and the surrounding area.

- Increase the availability of childcare places, supporting local families and helping parents and carers access or remain in employment, education and training.
- Create local employment opportunities.
- Contribute to the local economy through staff employment and expenditure by families using the facility.
- Secure the long-term, active use of the building and prevent potential vacancy or deterioration.

Unlike a private residential conversion, the proposal retains the site in an active community-serving use that delivers social and economic benefits throughout the week.

4. Planning Balance

The proposal represents the replacement of one community use with another that responds to an identified and growing need for childcare provision. It is therefore considered that the overall level of community benefit would be maintained and enhanced.

When balanced against the continued availability of alternative public houses and community venues within Slaithwaite, together with the significant social benefits of increased childcare provision, the proposal is not considered to result in an unacceptable loss of community facilities.

5. Conclusion

The proposed children's day nursery would provide a valuable and sustainable community service, supporting local families, children's development and the local economy. The proposal retains the building in an active community use and delivers clear public benefits that outweigh the loss of the existing public house.

It is therefore considered that the proposed change of use represents sustainable development and should be supported.