

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 June 2021 21:51
To: Planning <planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk>
Subject: Planning Application no: 3/2021/0555

We wish to register our concern and objections to the above Planning Application to change the use from Residential dwelling house to Residential institution.

Is there a local need for this type of Institution? Will the children be from Ribble Valley or other authorities? Surely children would benefit from being in a loving family foster home with stable relationships in an area they are familiar with.

Several years ago No.52 Knowsley Rd was a Childrens Home and not without problems for neighbours. The Home was eventually closed down due to being costly to run and not suitable for the children being placed there. It was noticeable that in the latter years the children were more disruptive with anti social behaviour problems and little respect for carers.

We have lived on Knowsley Rd for many years and have noticed a marked increase in anti social behaviour. We have experienced vandalism and trespassing on our property and are aware of the misuse of drugs and alcohol in the area.

The unmade road at the side of No.42 leads to the railway underpass which is a well known meeting place for teenagers. We feel this location is totally unsuitable for vulnerable children. The applicant lists numerous facilities in the area for children to use, however in reality there is very little.

The applicant also states that the property is not overlooked due to the high hedges and fencing, we find this to be misleading.

The position of No.42 on Knowsley Rd already suffers from parking problems. The proposed change of use will only aggravate the ongoing Road Safety concerns. It is noted that the Highways Dept. have no objections to the Application and state that the number of parking spaces is adequate for the property. However they have failed to take into account the current parking situation and the extra parking needed for carers, visitors, social workers and the meetings the applicant has suggested that may take place at the property. Emergency vehicles, buses, refuse lorries have frequent problems at the junction opposite the property due to parked vehicles.

Knowsley Rd is an access only road with a 20 mph speed limit, however this is farcical as the road is constantly used as a short cut with speeding being a particular concern. The traffic calming bumps have made the road even more dangerous as these are used as obstacles to speed over. It is absolutely frightening to be at the roadside when speeding vehicles are passing, as some sections of the road do not have a footpath. A young child would certainly require very close supervision.

We feel that the proposal is not suitable for the area and certainly not for the safety and well being of the vulnerable children who would live there.

We hope that the Planning Dept. will consider the views of the local community when determining this application for a commercial venture.

Thank you.
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