

From: Contact Centre (CRM) <contact@ribblevalley.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 June 2021 18:46

To: Web Development <webdevelopment@ribblevalley.gov.uk>; Planning <planning@ribblevalley.gov.uk>

Subject: Planning Application Comments - 3/2021/0555

Title: [REDACTED]

First Name: [REDACTED]

Surname: [REDACTED]

Is your address in Ribble Valley?: [REDACTED]

Enter a postcode or street: [REDACTED]

Choose Address: [REDACTED]

Selected address: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Locality:

County: Lancashire

uprn: 100010580477

usrn: 31800571

ward: E05005314

Planning Application Reference Number: 3/2021/0555

Address of Development: 42 Knowsley Road

Your Comments: I would like to object to the application primarily because I do not agree with its risk assessment.

The risk assessment is rated as yellow, or medium, for proximity to rail lines and the assessment states the house is within 1 mile of a train station.

The reality is that the house is around 400m from an unfenced trainline that carries regular passenger and bulk haulage trains, including at night. You can walk up the track from the house and be on the tracks within three minutes. Once on the tracks you can access a very long tunnel in the langho direction and a rail bridge in the Wilpshire direction very quickly.

Compounding this is a fact not addressed in the risk assessment - the train line leads through a section of unlit woods that is approximately 800 metres in length, between the A666 at the top and Woodcrest at the bottom.

These woods offer a perfect place for someone to go who wants to be unsupervised or alone. If a child wanted to get away from the home the woods are perfect, and at night the child could hide indefinitely. Whilst the 1:1 supervision element outlined in the Explanation of Operations document is noted - the risk assessment also explicitly caters for actions on when a child wants to leave the premises.

This is completely reasonable but all children, whether in care or not, at some point resist the supervision of parents/carers and want to be in their own company/with friends outside the home. Situating the home within three minutes of a large unlit woods with a busy rail line is inviting trouble for the care staff and I do not agree with the risk assessment result. The woods and train line present a clear opportunity for danger to the children, unreasonable workload for carers if the children go into the woods and the opportunity for antisocial behaviour because it is impossible to supervise or monitor people in the woods.

Additionally, the criteria for decision making on the risk assessment is not - to my examination - disclosed in the application pack. How is the final result arrived at? There is no point publishing a risk assessment if its criteria for decisions are not published. At the very least the application should be delayed until the risk assessment methodologies are published.