

20251081

I write to record my objection to the above Application for a Proposed Lawful Development Certificate.

The above application was initially for 2 x 4 bedroom properties for normal dwelling. However the owner of existing property (7. The Turnstones) now they have been granted permission and now wants to change the use from dwelling houses to a childrens care home for ages 8-18 years of age.

I would like to appeal against this proposal as at present this is a residential community with approximately 35 dwellings consisting of bungalows and houses and I have great concern with the crime statistics that this age group of children and teenagers commit. I have checked several websites and the National Office of Statistics quote : the % of offenders from this age group is very high at 52%. More than half (52%) of children in care had a criminal conviction by the age of 24 compared to 13% of children who had not been in care. Though this metric includes minor offences such as speeding and graffiti it is shocking that so many children in care have interacted with the justice system at such a young age. Moreover, of the children in care in custody 9 in 10 (92%) have special needs such as behavioural and emotional disorders.

I also refer to the letter from Kent Police dated 7th November setting out the conclusions to their review of this application with regard to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework. I will not quote from the letter as I assume you have a copy of the letter and recommendations from the police but in my opinion this will turn into a mini high security home. The following I have highlighted :-

Site security required at construction phase.

CCTV to be installed inside and out.

Staff should carry Personal attack alarms and in some cases BWV cameras for safety purposes.

The owner of this property has never lived here and has no regard for our community as you can tell for the numerous planning applications that have been submitted.

Children from the local area use these pathways and roads to access St John's school and could be subjected to confrontation.

I am a pensioner myself and have enjoyed the peace and quiet of this lovely area of Gravesend which is one reason why my wife and I chose to live here. I do not want these children speeding around the very small roads and spraying walls, fences, garage doors and cars with graffiti, causing possible damage and "petty crime" in this lovely area.

I do feel that this property should not be granted as the application states for change of use submitted to you.

May I also bring to your attention that I have not received any correspondence regarding this application.

