

**PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**Schedule of Supplementary Information**

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

**Members are advised of the enclosed information that was either  
received or requested after the production of the planning applications report**

**Bolton  
Council**

## 11438/21

Ward	Location
HOBL	HORWICH LOCO INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, STATION ROAD, HORWICH, BOLTON, BL6 5UE

Officers advise that the imposition of condition 8 (importation of soils) is not necessary in this instance, as the testing of soils is instead covered within the Environment Agency's Environment Permit. As Members are aware, conditions requiring compliance with other regulatory regimes do not meet the 6 conditions test (para. 56 of the NPPF) as they are not necessary or relevant to planning, as they are covered by other legislation. Members are therefore advised not to impose condition 8 should the application be approved.

## 11445/21

Ward	Location
HELO	119 REGENT ROAD, LOSTOCK, BOLTON, BL6 4DX

An additional representation has been received from local residents. The objection contains a number of photos and plans which (i) provides photos which highlight the parking of vehicles close to the application site on Regent Road and (ii) also a location plan showing the application site and its relationship with Regent Road and Sandfield Drive. Reference is made to the parked cars being by people accessing the golf course which restricts visibility when vehicles exit Sandfield Drive onto Regent Road.

The submission highlights that vehicles are unable to park on Sandfield Drive fully or partially on/off the pavement without potentially blocking Sandfield Drive to vehicular access. Full details of the information supplied is contained below.

Proposed C2 property (119 Regent Rd)



Photo 1 – Regent Road



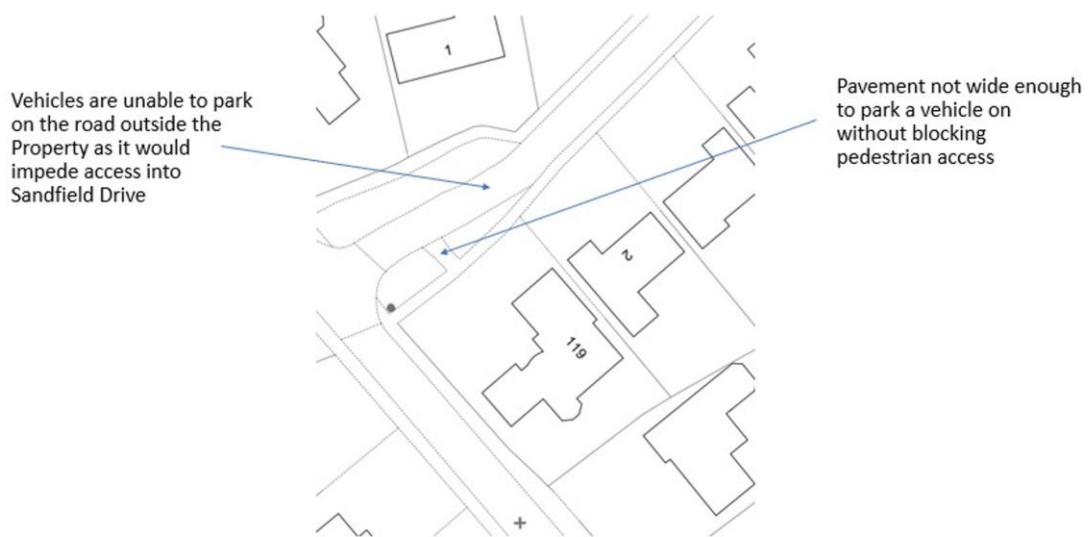
Photo 2 – Regent Road

Example of parking at the weekend on Regent Road – cars parked for access to footpath across the golf course.

119 Regent Road is the to left hand side of fences in photo 1

Parked vehicles restrict visibility for those coming out of Sandfield Drive

Regent Road is 20mph speed limit – most vehicles exceed the speed limit as there is no traffic calming measures in place



### **Statement from Bolton Council Children's Services**

Officers from Council's Children's Services have recently provided the following statement.

At present there are already 200 children in the GM area placed by more distant local authorities. There are 8 private providers and 20 children's homes offering 63 placements within Bolton although 36 of these placements are for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. At present Bolton only have 7 children residing in those placements. A further 25 children have had to be placed outside of their home town. Despite repeated efforts to create a 'soft-block' arrangement with these providers there has been little shift in the availability of the remaining 27 adolescent placements. It remains in the interests of Bolton to maintain a positive working relationship with these providers.

Until the 'soft-block' arrangement begins to have an impact, the creation of any new placements in Bolton, partly driven by the relative low cost accommodation available in the Borough, may serve only to create additional pressures on local services and resources. This pressure is exacerbated by the fact that most of the children to be placed will be highly likely to have some additional emotional, educational or mental health need that necessitates them being placed outside of their own local authority boundaries.

Any further expansion to the private children's home sector is highly likely to present further pressure on school placements and Special Education Needs and Disability provision and the availability of Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services support for Bolton children.

Previous conversations evidence that this expansion would also be opposed by colleagues in GMP. Despite their comparatively low numbers children placed in Bolton by other local authorities are more likely to be reported as being Missing from Care than Bolton children. This places immense pressure on police resources in processing, searching for and returning these young people to their placement and yet most of these young people are not actually missing but just absent from their placement. Some of those young people placed in Bolton have also become or have previously been involved in offending behaviour and may be more vulnerable to Child Criminal Exploitation.

Placements at a distance do not generally lead to a good outcome for the young person due to the fractured family relationships, disrupted education and loss of peer network they invariably experience when being placed so far away from their home towns.

Whilst these placements do constitute a key part of Bolton's Looked After Children Strategy 2022-25 and the GM Sufficiency strategy and whilst it is in Bolton's best interests to sustain a positive working relationship with these providers Bolton would not actively encourage any further expansion of the private children's home market within its boundaries unless the providers have engaged in extensive discussions about need and quality of care prior to submitting planning applications .

In relation to this specific application the proposal lacks clarity about the kind of provision that is on offer and the aged range 8-17 is worryingly broad .The lack of specifics make the application very difficult for the LA to support .It is commendable that the provider speaks to a Bolton first approach, but we would be unlikely to place 4 of Bolton's children in a placement together as the regulators require us to carefully "match " children to ensure all their needs can be met , and finding 4 children who can live well together can be very challenging .It is unclear if this statement represents an opportunity for the provider to appear to support local children without understanding the complexity of local childrens needs. A 4 bedded children's home is a very large provision within the current trauma informed approach to meeting the needs of complex children needing care and smaller homes are normally preferred .

The proposal lacks clarity and therefore can not be supported by the LA at this stage .

**Officer comment:**

The Council's Highways Engineers comments are contained within the Officers report. The use of the property as proposed would have the benefit of a double garage and a relatively large area of hardstanding within the front curtilage of the property which can be used for the off road parking of vehicles.

The issue of parked vehicles on Regent Road would hinder visibility from vehicles exiting Sandfield Drive either whether the property is used as a small scale children's home or a dwellinghouse. It is considered that given the scale of curtilage parking within the application site that the matter of the change of use is unlikely to result in any impact on highway safety.

The impact of a proposed development on local service provision is a material planning consideration. Core Strategy policy IPC1 does give consideration to the impact of smaller development proposals where contributions would be required to mitigate for the impact of a development proposal.