

14<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Re: The proposals for the Planning Permission at Number 34 Gawber Road

To whom it may concern,

I write regarding the proposals for the Residential Family Centre, currently in operation at 30 – 32 Gawber Road, which we are hoping to extend to include Number 34 Gawber Road.

I understand some objections have been raised regarding the conversion of Number 34 and I recognise it is important to offer our neighbours as much information as possible about the work we undertake.

We are a Residential Family Centre supporting vulnerable people to care for their children. We are OFSTED registered and have been rated Outstanding by OFSTED at our last three inspections.

It is important for me to stress that number 34, if approved, would only be used as an extension of the work we currently do now at numbers 30 and 32 Gawber Road. Should Number 34 progress, we would not be using the property for any other purpose and Barnsley Planning Regulations and OFSTED would not permit us to do so. It would be an extension of the Residential Family Centre currently operating.

The people we work with in our family centre are doing their utmost to remain together as a family. As we are an assessment centre, any residents placed with us must be living with and working to care for their child. It would not be possible for anyone to live with us as an individual on their own.

We do not accept residents who are using alcohol or substances of any kind. If it came to light that anyone resident with did use alcohol or substances, their placement would be terminated and in the case of using substances, the Police called. Residents are made aware of this prior to coming to the centre and sign an agreement to this effect, along with any Professionals or Social Workers they work with. Since parents are aware that any alcohol or substance misuse would impact negatively upon their assessment in terms of being able to care for their child, this is rarely a situation that occurs.

As is the current situation, the Residential Family Centre would continue to be staffed on a full time basis and the staff team would need to increase slightly to meet the additional need of the families. However, the extra parking spaces gained at Number 34 would not only alleviate the parking for additional staff members, but improve the situation from what it is at present. This is because the

purchase of 34 would provide opportunity to gain and create several parking spaces thus reducing the number of cars parked on the street.

The residents themselves rarely have cars, I am aware of only three residents in the last fifteen years who have had a car while staying at our Family Centre.

Our Family Centre has never caused any disturbance in the community (aside perhaps from babies crying at times)!

I hope this letter explains our intentions and helps allay any concerns. However, should the reader require further information, please also do not hesitate to contact myself, Sarah Farrar, or our Head of Service, Sue Yatgin on 01226 786247, we will be happy to speak to you. Additionally, our OFSTED report provides further reading and can be found on the OFSTED website.

Regards



Sarah Farrar

Manager, Gawber Road

Twenty Four Seven

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