

Stefan Galyas

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 October 2025 15:12
To: Stefan Galyas
Subject: 1 Lucas Way, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1JR Application No: DM/25/1968

[REDACTED]
Dear Stefan

RE – 1 LUCAS WAY – DM/25/1968

We write to object to the above application.

Although presented as a technical change of use from C3 to C3(b), the proposal would, in effect, convert a private residential property in a quiet cul-de-sac within a conservation area into a commercial operation. This would fundamentally alter the character and use of the property, setting an undesirable precedent within the region.

According to the application, the property owner would not be a resident. Instead, the property would be sublet to a commercial organisation, which would employ staff to work on a rotating shift basis to supervise children. This arrangement is clearly distinct from a typical C3(b) scenario—such as a family home with a live-in carer—where a stable domestic environment is maintained.

To operate continuously (24/7), the proposed use would require a team of multiple adults working in shifts. Such a pattern would inevitably bring frequent comings and goings, increased vehicle movements, and a lack of residential continuity, none of which align with the characteristics of a domestic dwelling. This proposal, therefore, cannot reasonably be regarded as a genuine residential use within Class C3(b).

Furthermore, the application provides no detail about the proposed children's home—whether it is intended for short breaks or long-term placements, whether it would be open or secure, or the level of care and facilities required. These details are essential for proper consideration, particularly given that children in care may have complex needs, traumatic backgrounds, or special educational requirements. It is inappropriate to seek approval for what is described as a “modest change of use” when the reality is the establishment of a commercial care facility.

In addition, the proposal raises significant practical and environmental concerns, including:

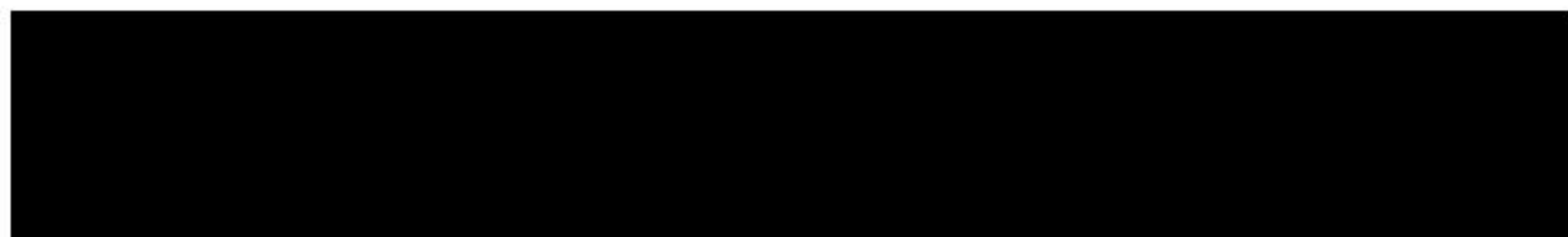
- The narrow width of the road and the fact that it is a cul-de-sac without a footpath;
- Traffic management and parking implications arising from staff shifts, service vehicles, and visitors;
- Maintenance and supervision of the property; and

- The impact on neighbouring residents and the overall character of the conservation area.

These matters warrant a complete planning application and detailed assessment, rather than approval through a Lawful Development Certificate.

We therefore respectfully request that the Council reject the current application—or any variant of it—and require that any further proposal be submitted for full planning consideration by the Planning Committee.

Kind regards

A solid black rectangular box used to redact a signature.