



Neil O'Brien OBE MP
Harborough, Oadby & Wigston
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA

16th August 2021

Dear Councillors,

I write to share my concerns about the planning application for 15 Briar Meads, Oadby, which would see a semi-detached residential dwelling converted into a children's home.

I welcome and support the principle of children's homes and having them within established communities and neighbourhoods, providing the building itself is suitable and fit for purpose. I do not feel the property in question is either suitable or fit for purpose for its new proposed use, which forms the basis of my objection and concerns here.

As mentioned, the property is semi-detached with a thin dividing wall between 15 and 17. The impact on 17 in terms of possible noise and vehicle traffic is likely to be considerable as a result. A further concern is the actual location of the property, in relation to the bend on Briar Meads. The property occupies a very small driveway, and it is largely inevitable that cars belonging to visitors or staffing personnel will park on the road, which if approached from the bend, presents possible dangers to anyone in the vicinity. With the location being close to a corner, it also means a slightly truncated garden which also backs onto a number of others, both in terms of those behind and those either side of the property.

I understand from my conversations that these concerns plus many others are shared by local residents who themselves work in care related roles, including an Occupational Therapist who has considerable experience of inspecting accommodation. I won't repeat all of their objections here as I believe they have also been submitted and will form part of the information pack for this application, so would encourage Councillors to read these submissions closely.

Residents I have spoken to also support the principle of children's care homes and having these located in communities, but do not believe this particular property for the aforementioned reasons is appropriate, suitable or fit for purpose for the needs of the children, the staff/carers as well as the neighbours in the vicinity.

I understand and share a number of these concerns and am grateful to Council Planning Officers for reading my comments out as part of this application hearing.

Best wishes,

Neil O'Brien

Neil O'Brien MP

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