

HIGHAMS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Planning application no 201744 - 24 The Charter Road, IG8 9QU

Use as a residential institution (Class C2) comprising a four bed residential home for children and young people living as a single household with care provided.

Dear Resident

We are writing to make you aware of the above application that appeared in last week's planning listing. (6th July). It is the first application of this nature we have seen on the Highams Estate. The only document currently showing on the planning portal is a site plan. We have asked the council for more detail. To date we have not received a reply. We also wrote to Cllr Rosalind Doré, who represents Hale End & Highams Park. She has responded to say: "Thank you for getting in touch. I noticed this listing too and wondered about the details so will make enquiries and get back to you as soon as I can."

Our concern is that whilst a resident family fostering is one thing and laudable, if this is a commercial enterprise it could set a precedent for other such applications to convert family homes on the Estate into residential institutions of one sort or another.

We have asked the Council Planning Department for clarification on the following issues:

1. The name of the applicant for this application is different to the original one that we saw for the extension that is currently still being worked on at the property. We are not clear whether it is the family who own the property who will be fostering children in their home or whether the house has now been sold to a commercial enterprise who are in the business of residential care homes and 24 The Charter Road will become another property in their portfolio. Will the care provided be by the family owners of the property or by external carers in shifts? There only appears to be one bedroom available for carers if the children take up the other four.
2. With the extension that is now almost complete, the garden of this property has been vastly reduced in size and is basically just a small courtyard at the back of the house. The children who reside at the institution will have minimal access therefore to immediate outside space. What expected age group of children will be staying at the property?
3. Has the proposed residential institution been approved by OFSTED?
4. Are you able to let us know what the views of the Planning Committee are likely to be for this sort of development?

In order that we can all understand more about the detail of this application, we would be very grateful if residents could also request information about the proposal from the Council Planning Offices.

Comments should be addressed to dmconsultations@walthamforest.gov.uk for the attention of Adam Brown, Case Officer quoting reference: Planning application no 201744 - 24 The Charter Road, IG8 9QU and also copied into cllr.rosalind.dore@walthamforest.gov.uk

Thank you for your help in this matter

David Jennings, Chairman
Highams Residents Association
highamsra@gmail.com