

Dear Committee Members

My wife and I have lived at 3 Warnham close (which is within the original grounds of Courtlands) since 1997 and you may note that we did not object to the 2022 Planning Application. We thought it a reasonable proposal to bring Courtlands back into use - despite the inevitable noise issues from a school!

Planning Approval was granted in 2022 to change the use from offices to a Care School but strictly limiting the school to a maximum of 23 children in overnight accommodation and with a large number of staff to care for them.

The new 2026 Planning Applications as submitted seeks to change the use to a Special Needs school for up to 80 children but now in a day school. This represents a 350% increase in numbers of children.

I consider this wholly unacceptable and hope the Committee refuse these applications.

Additionally 2 large shed-like classrooms, each 1000 square feet in size are being proposed within the grounds of this listed building with Classroom 2 being placed immediately adjoining our property 3 Warnham Close.

Again I find these proposals are totally unacceptable.

I trust you will refuse permission for these industrial style classrooms which are out of place and out of character even for a residential setting, let alone within the grounds of a listed building.

Surely the object of granting Planning Permission in 2022 was to bring Courtlands back into use?

Although we have experienced increased noise levels from the school, that change of use did serve a useful purpose.

However in my opinion, all teaching facilities must remain within the main Courtlands building and all external facilities should be refused outright.

In 2025 the owners of Courtlands have already erected and without planning permission a very large shed within several groups of Trees adjoining our property. These trees are in various groups protected by TPO'S and we request this building Shed 2 is refused and is removed.

An extract from the Planning Approval in 2022 is as follows:

There shall be no more than 23 children (aged between 11 and 18 years) resident at the facility at any one time. The provision of educational services on the site shall be limited to resident children only.

The report by the Planning Officer to the Committee stated the following:

It can reasonably be expected that immediate neighbours will have become used to a degree of peace and quiet given that the building has now been vacant for some 5 years, and even before that, operated only during normal weekday office hours. It is inevitable therefore that the proposed use will give rise to additional noise and activity than residents have become used to. However, the number of children is limited to 23 and therefore the use would not be overly intensive such as would give serious concerns about noise from the children themselves. The Applicant has indicated the nature and degree of disability would require the children to be supervised at all times when outside of the building in the grounds

I trust the Members will give due consideration to my comments above and hereby formally request for Planning Permission to be refused.

Kind Regards
Tony howard