Conington Parish Council

Meeting 2 November 2021

Joy Bradley, representing the applicant for a change of use of *The Huntsman*, Great North Rd, to a children’s home, attended the meeting on the 2nd November 2021.

Ms Bradley is an expert and children’s home OFSTED Inspector and wanted to correct some misinformation involved in the application along with some of the assumptions made when considering the planning aspect.

She pointed out that timescales for OFSTED do not coincide with planning timescales but that one could not proceed without the other; it was quite difficult when information has been prepared which would be useful (eg OFSTED report) but is not yet in the public domain.

The proposed home would be licensed for up to six children but would be unlikely to take all 6 at the beginning. The children would likely be 8 to 9 years old (not teenagers) and she emphasized that the accommodation will not be secure accommodation for offenders.

The children likely to be accommodated would be children suffering from neglect or who need care for their development and the aim would be to look after them until they were approx. 12 and then staff and children would go on together to a different establishment.

 She thought that the building was suitable for these type/age of children because it was rural, it has space, and could have an enclosed play area, room for music room, games area and a garden.

Gates would be reinstated at the front and some sort of hedge or barrier erected all around the property subject to listed building consent being given.

The children would be supervised one to one; if they needed to access local services they would be taken in a car probably, rather than access the bus service, and they would be too young to use the bus on their own. This is in line with other rural families.

The gates would be closed or locked and all children would be heavily supervised to prevent them wandering into surrounding properties or fields. Risk would be very low but she did take on board the heavy, fast traffic on the B1043 road and noise levels from the motorways nearby.

Ms Bradley’s number and email address are with the Clerk, any queries may be sent to the Clerk on coningtonpc@gmail.com who will pass them on.