

HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1A 0AA

Broadland District Council Planning Department Thorpe Lodge 1 Yarmouth Road Norwich NR7 0DU

Den Sin / Tadam,

25th January 2022

RE: Planning Application 20212324/Jaguar Buildings-Badersfield

I am writing to object to the above planning application and wanted to highlight to the Council the reasons why I think reopening would be a very significant mistake.

Not only would reopening fly in the face of very strong local opposition, but the reasons why the Home Office previously took the decision to close the centre are still present:

- It is still located in a rural community, where the numbers of asylum seekers will have a disproportionate impact on a largely elderly small village community.
- It is in the interests of asylum seekers to be housed in urban locations where they have access to increased facilities as well as to local immigrant communities and do not excite significant negative reactions from the local population.
- There are wholly inadequate facilities in the village to service the needs of residents. This means that any resident would have to walk three miles along unlit road without pavement to reach a shop or other facilities. Public transport is not available to support this need.
- Badersfield is a small close-knit community who are understandably concerned about the safety implications of the sudden influx of up to 180 males who will not be contained within the facility but will equally have nothing to occupy them outside of it. I have been contacted by numerous constituents who felt unsafe living in their own homes due to poor, inadequate supervision of the previous occupants when it was last used as emergency accommodation.
- The last time Jaguar House was used as emergency accommodation a number of constituents contacted me about their experiences of intimidating behaviour and trespass. Without access to the range of facilities that an urban location can provide it is very likely that the presence of a large number of unoccupied young men will create significant challenges for the resident community.

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• The existing Heras fencing adjoining Barnby Road was totally inadequate in preventing individuals from entering and exiting the site previously. It is easily removed from its blocks and even the blocks were moved to facilitate entry/exit where the Heras fence adjoins the side fence of a neighbouring property. I understand that the proposed secondary fencing is also proposed to be Heras fencing. Two sets of inadequate, insecure fencing will not solve this problem.

There is a high degree of concern over these proposals. For all the reasons above Jaguar House is not a suitable location for this kind of use. I would be grateful if my objections to this proposal be taken into account during the considerations of the planning committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jerome Mayhew MP