From: WPS Planning <applications@wpsplanning.co.uk>
Sent: 22 July 2025 12:17:53 UTC+01:00
To: "Tamara.Dale" <Tamara.Dale@horsham.gov.uk>
Subject: Church Centre, Causeway

Dear Tamara,

Thank you for keeping us informed. We write on behalf of No. 31 Causeway to respond comprehensively to each of the points raised and to outline the proactive steps we have already undertaken in collaboration with the church.

We acknowledge that the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) has raised no formal objection concerning noise impacts related to the proposed pre-school use. However, our daily experience contradicts this position, leading us to maintain our genuine concern that the proposed use of the building as a pre-school would indeed result in unacceptable noise disturbance.

In light of this, we have taken proactive measures to investigate suitable soundproofing solutions. To offer reassurance to the Councillors and to address these legitimate noise concerns constructively, we have actively engaged in discussions with the church representatives. As a result, we have reached an agreement in principle to install appropriate acoustic insulation between the church hall and our adjoining property. Currently, we are finalising the detailed specifications and agreeing upon practical timescales to enable these works to be implemented promptly upon any approval.

We consider it essential that the requirement to install soundproofing measures be included as a formal condition attached to any planning consent. Such a condition would, in our view, be entirely reasonable and appropriate within the context of this planning application and would comfortably satisfy the necessary tests for imposing planning conditions.

Although we continue to have reservations regarding the EHO’s comments, however given the proactive steps we have agreed upon with the church, we believe there is no substantive planning justification for insisting on a formal Noise Impact Assessment at this juncture. Introducing this requirement would, in our opinion, impose an unnecessary and potentially onerous burden on all parties involved.

While we retain some reservations regarding the proposed use of the barn for pre-school purposes, the collaborative agreement to implement suitable soundproofing adequately mitigates our primary concern. Consequently, we would support the application being granted approval, subject to appropriate conditions, without further undue delay. However, should the Council deem it not appropriate to impose a condition as suggested, then we would feel that further investigation in terms of noise impact should be explored.

We trust that this response addresses all outstanding points comprehensively and demonstrates clearly our commitment to working collaboratively towards a mutually acceptable resolution.

Regards
Doug

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