

**8 Hans Avenue
Wantage
OX12 7DB**

5th September 2022

Re: Planning Application P22/V1088/FUL

I am writing to ask the Council not to follow the recommendations of the Planning Committee.

Hans Avenue with Maria Crescent and Susan Crescent form a cul-de-sac of 31 (mostly) bungalows occupied by elderly residents. Although there may be no guidelines to say the Planning Committee need take the demographic make up of an area into account, I would like to point out certain aspects to you as Councillors not Planners.

As Councillors your role is to act in the best interests of the community you serve. This cul-de-sac forms a quiet, peaceful neighbourhood where the residents help one another with shopping and bins. We supported each other during the Covid lockdowns. We had a street party with the road closed in June for the Jubilee attended by 60 people. We gather each week (weather permitting) on the pavement with a chair and a drink and exchange news and generally catch up with each other. This is a community of which you, as Councillors, should be proud.

The residents are mainly elderly, many in their 90s and myself, at 75, one of the youngest. Many are ladies living alone. If you, as Councillors, were aware of the anguish and distress this application is causing the residents, I would hope your humane compassion would bring you to the conclusion that this is the wrong place for a takeaway food outlet. It is an unsuitable location for any form of business which operates late into the evening seven days a week.

Residents are concerned particularly about the increase in late evening traffic; about litter in the street and in gardens; about anti-social behaviour; about noise in general. The Planning Officers may well say customers can walk or cycle for their take-away; that bins will be provided; that the hours of opening have been marginally reduced. But you as Councillors, as People, know that residents' concerns are real: traffic, litter, anti-social behaviour and noise will occur.

Good mental health among the population is high on the Government's agenda and that of the NHS. Here you have a settled, elderly group of people whose mental health has already been affected adversely by the Planning Committee's remarks.

I ask that as Councillors, as human beings, you consider your response to this application with humanity and understanding.

Christine Lisi