

DEPARTMENT OF GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT

ORIGINATING SECTION: Planning.

REPORT TO: 12th July 2017 Planning & Highways Committee.

TITLE: Petition regarding; Full Planning Application 10/17/0321 - Proposed change of use to turn the existing empty building (previously a public house) into a community centre - Former Lockside Tavern, 197 Bolton Road, Blackburn

Applicant: Mr Imran Ahmed - Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Centre

Ward: Ewood

Councillor Maureen Bateson	
Councillor Jim Casey	
Councillor Jamie Groves	

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform Members of the receipt of a petition objecting to planning application 10/17/0321. Copies of the petition are available in Democratic Services.

2.0 **BACKGROUND AND DETAILS**

2.1 Planning application reference 10/17/0321 was submitted to the Planning Authority on 21st March 2017. The application seeks consent for a change of use from public house (currently vacant) to a community centre.

2.2 Public consultation letters were issued on the 10th April 2017 and 4 objections to the proposal were received.

2.3 Following the receipt of amended/additional details there was a further public consultation 23rd May 2017, 3 more objections and a petition have been received.

2.4 The petition was received 5th June 2017 and contains 8 signatories

The grounds of objection relate to:

- A community centre already exists at Ivy St, within a short distance of the site. In addition, there are several mosques within a short distance of the development meaning residents who attend such

establishments are well catered for. It follows that the proposed development is not needed or necessary.

- The proposal will increase vehicle movements and activity at the site, including strangers to the local community. This will restrict the use of the area by children and inevitably impact on the quiet enjoyment of the area that is evident at present.
- The traffic situation would become intolerable, resulting in an unhealthy and dangerous place to live

3.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee note the petition, that the issues raised inform the assessment of the proposal and that the lead petitioners be informed of the decision once made.

4.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

4.1 None

5.0 **CONTACT OFFICER** – Martin Kenny (tel: 585639)

6.0 **DATE PREPARED** – 29th June 2017