Statements and additional information received for Planning on the 12th July 2022

Agenda Item 5 – 22/00540/FUL

I wish to register my objection to the proposal to transform St Jude Church in a nursery. I leave close to the area of the church, I attended the church services, while has been used by the Romanian community. The church hall has been an important resource to the Romanian community.

Regarding constructing a nursery, is there enough outdoor space for young children to play? One would imagine that there would be far greater parking and traffic issues for the local residents from the 20+ members of staff looking for a parking space, parents dropping/picking up children, parents waiting for their children. All these happening during the week days, when there is already a lot of traffic, not on Sunday, when the traffic is very low.

Thank you very much for taking in consideration my concerns.

Kind regards,

Adrian Dinoiu

From: Andrei Trifan Sent: 12 July 2022 09:06 Subject: Help up keep our church as place for worship.

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing this email intending to explain in a few words what our church and our beloved priest mean to us, the Romanian people, christian orthodox community.

When the churches were shut for people's protection during this period, our priest Ovidiu Semerean held religious services online and streamed them on the Zoom and Facebook platforms. It was complex and challenging because, as practising Christian orthodox, being in the church during the Divine Liturgy, having the bread (Jesus body) and wine (Jesus blood), is essential for our salvation. The worship of the Eastern Orthodox Church is viewed as the church's fundamental activity because the worship of God is the joining of man to God in prayer, which is an important function of Christ's Church.

Before the pandemic, our lives were connected strongly with our priests and church. Each Sunday, we travelled from different locations (sometimes more one-hour drive) to St. Jude church to be present at Divine Liturgy to socialize with other Christians, which became our

friends over time. It is a robust community, with more than 30000 Romanian citizens in this area (Southampton, Bournemouth, Poole, Winchester, Portsmouth, Havant, Waterlooville, Bordon, Alton and other surrounding areas). Of course, not all come in once at the church, but we had between 150 and 200 people at each Divine Liturgy mass. Each Sunday, we had different people attending the religious services, which were not always the same. Every time, new faces, young or middle-aged men and women, young children, and toddlers, all gathered for the Holy Communion with genuine joy and hope.

But St. Jude church wasn't only the Divine Liturgy. At the end of each religious service Sunday, priest Ovidiu is held by people for discussion, personal problems, confessions, different humanitarian activities, helping others in need with food, money, and moral support, all this together as a second Liturgy after the Divine Liturgy. Each year on Christmas, we had a Shoes Box campaign, sending presents to different Romanian communities not as lucky as we are here. Every month we have a fundraising campaign for families in need across the region, people who lost their beloved ones, lost their job, or have financial difficulties; all they have a place in our church, no matter what religious beliefs they have.

Let's not forget about baptism (Christian sacrament of admission and adoption, almost invariably with the use of water, into Christianity); we had hundreds of them in a few years. We need to consider the age of our community; most of them are young, healthy 25 - 30 - 40 years old adults, who came here for a better life, and of course, came with all their religious beliefs. We had a few wedding ceremonies and funerals as life's cycle continued around us.

St. Jude has been the core around which the Romanian community formed and developed; young families moved to this area to be closer to the church, take their children to Sunday school, and ensure they didn't forget their native language. There are no words to describe how important the church is for us, young and old, community, prayer, candle lighting, listening to the choir byzantine chanting, communion, etc.

St. Jude had a cultural part; we had concerts on Christmas, lent chanting, Sunday chats over a coffee, just a hug or a handshake from a known face all had their part in our community.

All this came to an end when the Covid pandemic appeared in our life. Diocese of Winchester also decided to take the opportunity to add the church to the market, and we felt the process itself wasn't transparent enough.

St. Jude's closure was for our big family (our Romanian community) felt like losing a beloved family member, a continuous mourning. We want to express our strong willingness to have it back on this occasion.

Of course, we had significant support from the Church of England, which helped us continue our Divine Liturgy in an old, beautiful, but far too small church away from Southampton (St. Katharine's Church). The problem here is the size and the lack of public transport; many of our community participants travel there at St. Jude walking, by bus or biking, which is an excellent way to keep our carbon footprint as low as possible.

Please remember that our community is among the fastest-growing ones in the region, in Southampton and Portsmouth alone; there are over 30000 Romanian citizens, but the parish extends to Salisbury, Alton, Petersfield, Fareham Winchester and so on.

We all work and contribute to the well-being of our community. We are nurses, carers, cleaners, builders, lorry drivers, taxi drivers, delivery drivers, and factory workers. We have university, secondary and primary teachers, scientists, doctors, and engineers; we all bring our part to the community.

Please take this as an exercise of imagination and see yourself as the land donor for St. Jude Church. What would you think if you find that the land gifted to the Shirley community with the specific covenant of it being used for a place of worship is in danger of being turned into a "light industrial unit".

We are expressing our willingness to have our church back, and we want to look after the building, sort out the leaking roof, clear the yard, cut the grass, sort out the fences, and improve the inside and outside of our church which is the House of the Lord.

You are more than welcome to visit our Facebook page: <u>https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintcalinicfromcernica.org.uk</u> ;<u>!!NO-ljftdxW2aALo!U4-TjFbsAUIc2UFCGIARES36mu3Cq-1SxSKYcqeRrcuI-oC5_ytFi4D-</u> <u>AkaMa1BikXd-nzEc9ZGCOac-i-1Ck2ECRCB7qU4eku6TBLFxEUJY</u> . And our youtube church presentation: <u>https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2JS1e7uiJo___;!!NO-</u> <u>ljftdxW2aALo!U4-TjFbsAUIc2UFCGIARES36mu3Cq-1SxSKYcqeRrcuI-oC5_ytFi4D-</u> <u>AkaMa1BikXd-nzEc9ZGCOac-i-1Ck2ECRCB7qU4eku6TBPt007Mb</u> .

God help us all!

From: paul ularu Sent: 12 July 2022 01:50 Subject: 22/00540/FUL

Hi,

Please consider the desire of many souls to keep the church of St Jude a place of prayer, to keep the Church as your ancestors wanted it. We are in a time when evil is spreading throughout the world for lack of faith, if we replace churches with commercial places be they the target of any mind, we will lose the essence of a better, nobler world.

I hope to be all for the good of those who do not seek gain without prejudice.

Respecfully, Paul

From: Adrian IonescuSent: 11 July 2022 22:18Subject: REF 22/00540/FUL planning application for change of Use from Place of Worship (Class F1(f)) to Day Nursery

Regarding the 22/00540/FUL planning application, I have to object below issues:

1. The planning application it's not completed: missing parts from the application: Missing Sections drawings.

- 2. Every time, the ground inside the building outline of an old and existing church, its sure has many relics and parts of the buried bodies! Without a clear report and study, or a bit of minimum archaeological advice, it's impossible to change of Use from Place of Worship (Class F1(f)) to Day Nursery!
- 3. A nursery needs more garden space! A church is more inside type than outside. To change of Use from Place of Worship (Class F1(f)) to Day Nursery it's clear, not a good option!

Adrian P. Ionescu

From: Lya Bv Sent: 11 July 2022 22:59 Subject: We want our church back (St. JUDE)

With all my respect,

I am writing this email intending to explain in a few words what our church and our beloved priest mean to us, the Romanian people, christian orthodox community.

When the churches were shut for people's protection during this period, our priest Ovidiu Semerean held religious services online and streamed them on the Zoom and Facebook platforms. It was complex and challenging because, as practising Christian orthodox, being in the church during the Divine Liturgy, having the bread (Jesus body) and wine (Jesus blood), is essential for our salvation. The worship of the Eastern Orthodox Church is viewed as the church's fundamental activity because the worship of God is the joining of man to God in prayer, which is an important function of Christ's Church.

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beloved ones, lost their job, or have financial difficulties; all they have a place in our church, no matter what religious beliefs they have.

Let's not forget about baptism (Christian sacrament of admission and adoption, almost invariably with the use of water, into Christianity); we had hundreds of them in a few years. We need to consider the age of our community; most of them are young, healthy 25 - 30 - 40 years old adults, who came here for a better life, and of course, came with all their religious beliefs. We had a few wedding ceremonies and funerals as life's cycle continued around us.

St. Jude has been the core around which the Romanian community formed and developed; young families moved to this area to be closer to the church, take their children to Sunday school, and ensure they didn't forget their native language. There are no words to describe how important the church is for us, young and old, community, prayer, candle lighting, listening to the choir byzantine chanting, communion, etc.

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Of course, we had significant support from the Church of England, which helped us continue our Divine Liturgy in an old, beautiful, but far too small church away from Southampton (St. Katharine's Church). The problem here is the size and the lack of public transport; many of our community participants travel there at St. Jude walking, by bus or biking, which is an excellent way to keep our carbon footprint as low as possible.

Please remember that our community is among the fastest-growing ones in the region, in Southampton and Portsmouth alone; there are over 30000 Romanian citizens, but the parish extends to Salisbury, Alton, Petersfield, Fareham Winchester and so on.

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Please take this as an exercise of imagination and see yourself as the land donor for St. Jude Church. What would you think if you find that the land gifted to the Shirley community with the specific covenant of it being used for a place of worship is in danger of being turned into a "light industrial unit".

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<u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/saintcalinicfromcernica.org.uk</u>. And our youtube church presentation: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2JS1e7uiJo</u>.

God help us all!

From: sabou dorel Sent: 11 July 2022 22:32 Subject: Application 22/00540/FUL

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dorel Sabou, I am one of the many congregants who were benefitting from the weekly church service at Saint Judes church.

I would like to express my wish against the use of this building for other purposes than facilitating religios services. This is imperative for the conservation of the local Romanian community, it's values and traditions.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

Dorel Sabou.

From: Manea Ioan AndreiSent: 11 July 2022 21:28Subject: Please help us keep our church (St. JUDE) as a place for worship

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing this email intending to explain in a few words what our church and our beloved priest mean to us, the Romanian people, christian orthodox community.

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God help us all!

From: Alifer Alina Petrosan Sent: 11 July 2022 20:37 Subject: 22/00540/FUL

Hi,

I am writing to you in connection with our desire to keep St. Jude's Church a place of prayer and to keep this place for the purpose for which it was built in no way to become a place of gain for some who can already buy any other place.

I hope that you will evaluate from a moral point of view this dispute which would not have arisen without material reasons.

Kind regards

Alina

From: Elvira Rus Sent: 11 July 2022 20:26 Subject: 22/00540/FUL

Hi.

I would like the church to be preserved for the purpose of prayer, not for the material purposes of some who with money think they can buy a commercial place or destroy a building of moral values.

I hope that our voices will be heard and taken into account.

Kind regards

Elvira

From: Razvan BoatcaSent: 11 July 2022 20:24Subject: Regarding the aplication 22/00540/FUL , about ST.JUDES Church

Hello,

My name is Razvan, a member of the Romanian community, and Regarding the aplication 22/00540/FUL

I want to express my thoughts why I believe it is not fair to not return the St.Jude Church to the Romanian Community.

I live and work in the last years here im U.K ,and St.Jude Church was the only Accesible place for me(I have problems with mobility) and St.Jude was accesible and the Priest always kind, it was a place of mental consolation, to commune with my brothers and sisters in Christ, and this place I HOPE TO GOD that will not be sold!

I just want to ask this question to whoever is responsible:

Why change its original intended God blessed Purpose which is: A place of Consolation both mentally and physically? Why not even give it a boost to a renewal so neccesary in this country where genuine spiritual comfort is so hard to find...

During the Pandemic the Romanian community felt lost like wandering nomads facing the difficult task of finding a stable Worship place.

St.Jude's Church was that place!

and I still cant comprehend why after so many years of good care and good stewardship in the hands of a capable Priest , why put it back on the market?

God is watching with love Everyone, and I WILL BE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED AND SAD IF ST.JUDE DOESN'T RETURN TO THE ROMANIAN COMMUNITY....

I hope that someone will read this,

GOD BLESS US EVERYONE!

Respectfully,

-RAZVAN BOATCA.

From: Gabriel Dima Sent: 11 July 2022 20:20 Subject: Hello!

You don't often get email from gabrieldima37@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon!

My name is Gabriel Dima, I live in Southsea and I am a member of Romanian Christians Community In South East of England .

I can clearly testify that my little daughter was baptised in St. Jude's Church and we all missed this place ,since we was not allowed anymore to Sunday ceremony's .That place have attracted so many Christians from our community since the beginning from 2015 because of its size and we were all happy there.

Thus I totally disagree with the reference application

22/00540/FUL.

Kind regards,

From: Daniela Budai Sent: 11 July 2022 20:09 Subject: 22/00540/FUL

Hi!

These lines are to express our desire to keep a church that was built to be kept the church that is the house of God in which prayers help everyone, and this to save the state of this world, but to be sold for purposes commercial even for a purpose in which children are used until the next idea for the gain of others, the construction will become of the Church something devoid of moral value or effectively a place without a pure purpose.

I hope that your choice will be made for the moral benefit of this world and of those who do not seek material gain.

Kind regards, Daniela

Danyțiᢤ

From: Matei Laura Sent: 11 July 2022 18:26 Subject: 22/00540/FUL

Good evening,

Hope you are well. I am writing concerning the possibility of St Judes Church to be transformed in a different place than being a church.

Please accept me and my husband's humble request- Please do not allow St Judes to be turned into a different establishment than being a church.

We have been to Saint Calinic de la Cernica Church for more than 5 years now and we remember how beautiful Father Ovidiu's sermons were at St Judes. It was actually the place where I was praying to God to allow us having a child and now we hold in our arms our 2 years old son - Luca.

St Judes was designed to be a Church and serve for the name of God. This should never be changed. Please try your best to make sure St Judes will not be demolished and changed into something else.

Thank you so much for your time. Have a lovely evening.

Kind Regards,

Constantina and Catalin Predoi

From: emily sandySent: 11 July 2022 16:59Subject: St Jude's Church - sale objection

Dear Sir/Madam,

My husband and I would like to reiterate our strong objection to the sale to a developer and change of purpose of St Jude's Church is Shirley, Southampton.

Please consider our objection at your meeting tomorrow as we are unable to take part in person.

We have been part of the Romanian Orthodox community at St Jude's from its' beginning over 5 years ago and it had become the spiritual home of several hundred Orthodox Romanians until the beginning of Cov-19 pandemic when it was forced to shut.

As a community using and looking after tge church, we have always maintained a good relationship with the local community in Shirley, who had supported us and were extremely keen to have the church continue its services.

As no doubt you are aware, Warren Avenue particularly is a already a heavily populated area, parking is at a premium and should St Jude be transformed into anything other than a place of worhip, this will have a very negative impact on the already challenged area.

Equally, you ought to take into consideration that through the unfair change of use (remember the land covenant from the land donor that stipulates that St Jude's should always remain a place of worship) you will be depriving a very large community of tax payers, voters and contributors to Southampton's local economy of their very much needed spiritual home.

We apreciate that you may not realise how vital a church is for a foreign community who live and work so far away from their home land. Over time we have had little or no help in this respect, other than being overlooked and offered unsuitable/too small and inaccessible alternatives.

Please note that our current place of worship, St Katharine's Church at Exbury Gardens is very inconvenient despite its rural and historic beauty. It is far too small, with no access to public transport - this in turn prevents a significant number of young families with children and elderly who don't have their own transport to get to St Katharine's. Now if this is not close to discrimination, then what is...

For us, it takes just over an hour to drive to Dt Katharine's, whereas it was just 40 minutes before.

We urge you to reconsider the spiritual needs of our very large community, and for once think outside the money box and treat us fairly just as our community contributes significantly to your local community.

Thank you in advance and we hope that you will be guided to take the best and fair decision.

Kind regards,

Emilia and John Barnett

Parishioners - St Calinic of Cernica,

Romanian Orthodox Church, formerly at St Jude's Southampton

Home address:

3 Robertson Close

Alton

GU34 1U

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to register my interest to speak in support of St Jude's Church to remain a place of worship. As I will still be at work in Southampton General Hospital, I would be grateful for a Teams link.

Many thanks

Best wishes

Roxana O Carare MD, PhD

Professor of Clinical Neuroanatomy

Deputy Head of School

Faculty of Medicine

University of Southampton

Honorary Secretary to the British Neuropathological Society

Southampton

Hampshire

SO16 6YD

S. Fletcher 43, Warren Avenue, Shirley, SO16 6AH

Application No: 22/00540/FUL

Address: St. Jude's Church Warren Avenue Southampton

I have already submitted my objections re: parking, traffic etc. As I should imagine many others have.

What I would like to bring to the Panels mind is the case of equality.

Shirley Warren has a very diverse community and practically every ethnicity has a place available to worship somewhere in Southampton with one exception and that is people of Romanian decent. That is where St. Jude's comes into its own.

Since 2015 the Romanian Church has been using St. Jude's and it has proved pivotal for the Romanian immigrants living in and around Southampton. It has provided a hub for the community not only for prayer but for community cohesion enabling the younger generation not only to learn their history but to connect with their roots while becoming very much part of British society.

Members of the congregation include local English residents and the Church is transliterating their service into English to make it more welcoming to the local community.

The only reason for this to have ceased was the Vicar of Maybush shutting the church at the outbreak of Covid, then after Covid refusing to open it, taking back all keys and telling the Vicar to remove all artifacts etc. Two years ago.

Since then the Romanian Church have been homeless.

Considering the ground, according to covenant should only be used for religious and community purposes I strongly opposed the proposals being put forward and believe it should remain a Church.



Romanian Honorary Consulate in Winchester

Consular Districts: Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey, West & East Sussex

Southampton Democratic Services

application 22/00540/FUL 12/07/2022

Dear Sir/Madame,

My name is Calin Huma and I am the Honorary Consul of Romania in Winchester. My Consular duty is to nurture an environment where the Romanian community (around 100,000 strong in the SE of UK) integrates with dignity within the larger Hampshire communities. I am honoured to represent such hard working people and I am trying to look after their well being. Romanian values, traditions and spirituality are not foreign to the British ones therefore they need to be maintained, especially as our cultures are based upon similar Christian values.

With this in mind, I write to you in the hope that in your good wisdom, us Romanians, might find some council in regard to having access to a praying and spiritual place that is so needed to guide us in such difficult times. We hope that we will be given a chance at today's consultations to voice our opinion and desire to reconnect the Romanian community with this place, that is the object of these consultations, which is so important to us.

I fully support Father Ovidiu in his efforts to reestablish the soul of our community and have a place where we can reconnect in peace with our creator and I hope he will capture your attention with his plans to make the space a hub for communities integration.

I hope this letter finds you well and I am at your disposal for any questions.

Calin Huma Romanian Honorary Consul in Winchester

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Romanian Honorary Consulate in Winchester Consular Districts: Hampshire & Isle of Wight, Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Surrey, West & East Sussex

Dave Griffiths 53 Warren Avenue Southampton SO16 6AH

12th July 2022

Members of Planning & Rights of Way Panel Southampton City Council

Re: Planning Application No: 22/00540/FUL / Site Code 34222 Statement to Planning and Rights of Way Panel

Referring to the 'Planning Design and Access Statement' (PDAS).

1.3 notes that the church takes up a large portion of the site. This is an understatement, the plans submitted by the applicant - does not 'paint' the real picture. St Jude's was built to provide a convenient and central church for the community. Therefore, vehicle parking wasn't a necessary consideration!

5.9 observes that the existing access dictates the area that can be set aside for parking and turning of vehicles.

5.10 mentions Warren Avenue being a relatively busy thoroughfare. Another understatement, Warren Avenue is an <u>extremely</u> busy thoroughfare.

Health and Safety

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As can be seen by photographs already submitted of the church when in use from 2015 up to March, 2020, vehicles are parked in front of the church. The applicant plans for this to be a children's play area. The church hall and boundary fencing to adjacent properties, severely restrict manoeuvrability of any vehicle and traffic routes. Especially any larger service vehicles that will have to attend a nursery.

By law, pedestrians and vehicles must be able to use a traffic route without causing danger to the health and safety of people. Reversing should be avoided as far as possible but where it is unavoidable effective safety measures should be put in place. Nothing is mentioned in the application regarding these issues.

Potentially, there is going to be 140+ vehicle movements twice daily, Has, a schedule been put in place to prevent overcrowding of the site and Warren Avenue?

Parking areas - which are limited as mentioned above - should be laid out to reduce manoeuvring and reversing for vehicles (especially larger ones). Has this been properly addressed with regards to

the health and safety issue raised above?

In summary St Jude's wasn't built with vehicle parking in mind, it was built to be a place of worship.

Yours sincerely, **Dave Griffiths**

Mrs H J Griffiths 53 Warren Avenue Southampton SO16 6AH

12th July 2022

Members of Planning & Rights of Way Panel Southampton City Council

<u>Re: Planning Application No: 22/00540/FUL / Site Code 34222</u> <u>Statement to Planning and Rights of Way Panel</u>

Site Access

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The site is accessed at only one point and only allows for single lane entry/exit. With a potential 140+ vehicle movement twice daily at this entry/exit point; there is almost certainly going to be additional traffic flow problems - even congestion - on an already very busy Warren Avenue. My maths isn't very good, but 280+ vehicle movements, equates to one vehicle either entering or exiting the site in little under 3 minutes on average during operating hours. There has to be an occasion - probably more than one – when there is a vehicle wanting to enter the site when one is leaving. This can only cause more traffic flow problems.

Emergency Services

What happens if there were – God forbid - a fire emergency! Fire appliance vehicles <u>have</u> to be able to turn round. That is nigh on impossible when looking at the proposed plans for the St Jude's site. I believe the same could be said of an ambulance.

The site was designed for a place of worship, not a nursery or any other type of private enterprise.

In making your decision; please take all the above into consideration.

Yours sincerely

H.J. Criffits

Mrs H J Griffiths

Margery Richardson 47 Warren Avenue Southampton SO16 6AH

12th July 2022

Members of Planning & Rights of Way Panel Southampton City Council

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<u>Re: Planning Application No: 22/00540/FUL / Site Code 34222</u> <u>Statement to Planning and Rights of Way Panel</u>

Planning permission is required to authorise the change of use from Use Class F1(f), which includes place of worship to Use Class E(f) (Commercial, Business and Services) which use as a Children's nursery now falls under. This planning application is linked directly to the Church's Scheme affecting the church of St Jude, Southampton.

The principle behind the introduction of the Scheme is that: St Jude became a chapel of ease in 2014 and deemed that the church of St Jude and its church hall were considered to be no longer required. It is <u>inaccurate</u> to say that the church of St Jude "_is no longer a viable use within this particular community," (Planning Design & Access Statement 5.3)!

There is photographic, video and documented evidence that the church of St Jude was used, by another Christian Church from 2015 until the gates were locked at the start of the pandemic March 2020. This Christian Church had a healthy congregation <u>including some members of the parish's</u>

diverse community. This same Church has made an offer to purchase on two occasions 2015 and 2020.

Whilst, the church hall is not part of the Church's Scheme or this planning application, it will be affected if the application is approved <u>AND</u> the Church's Scheme made. The church hall was hired by a separate Christian Church from 2012 and was used for various other purposes until said closure in March 2020.

In summary: A Christian Church using the church of St Jude's would be of benefit to the community of its parish. They would be deprived of that benefit if this application is approved and the Church's Scheme made.

I would like the Panel to take the points into consideration when making a decision regarding this planning application.

Yours sincerely

Margery Richardson