



Agenda

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Anthony Marsh - Chief Executive
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
Trust Headquarters
Millennium Point
Waterfront Business Park, Waterfront Way
Brierley Hill
West Midlands
DY5 1LX

21 February 2022

Dear Anthony

Re: West Midlands Ambulance Station, Mercian Close, Shrewsbury SY3 9EA

I am writing to you as Chair of the Planning Committee of Shrewsbury Town Council regarding public concerns raised about the West Midlands Ambulance Station on Mercian Close in Shrewsbury.

As you may be aware, planning permission was granted by Shropshire Council for the Ambulance Station in 2012 on the following basis:

The change of use of the building and additional car parking area to serve as an ambulance hub for Shrewsbury is considered to be acceptable. There are no alterations proposed to the external appearance of the building and the land for parking is already flat and fenced off. The development will not have a detrimental impact on the amenities of surrounding residents or businesses and the proposed use will not result in any wider highway safety or capacity issues.

Excerpt from *Determination of Application for Full Planning Permission for Application 12/03439/FUL – Permission Granted 18 October 2012*

In a letter from the Head of Estates at West Midlands Ambulance Service which was submitted along with the application and dated 11 September 2012 it read:

The model of delivery will be based upon staff reporting to one of the base hubs for shift start, collect a fully pre-prepared Emergency vehicle and then deploy to one of the Community Ambulance Station locations in preparation to receive an Emergency call. Three such locations have been identified in Shrewsbury at Battlefields, Emstrey and Shelton.

Generally, Emergency vehicles will not routinely respond from the hub location by plan, but of course should a very local Emergency require resourcing, then the hub may provide the nearest response.

Public concerns have, however, been raised recently with Shrewsbury Town Council that the Ambulance Station no longer meets the criteria for which planning permission was originally granted. Specifically, a public question was raised at the Town Council's Full Council meeting on 24 January 2022 regarding concerns over the location of the Ambulance Station and the risk it created to public safety. It has been observed that there has been a vast increase in blue light responses from the station and that



such activity is not appropriate in a heavily residential area which also has includes two schools within its immediate proximity. The initial planning application in 2012 was for an ambulance hub, but we have serious concerns that it now appears to be operating as a full station, which increases the volume of traffic in the area considerably and puts public safety at risk. We respectfully request therefore that West Midlands Ambulance Service seek an alternative suitable location for such a facility to serve the town, away from a residential area.

Attached to the original planning application was additional information statement provided by Barnett Ratcliffe Partnership on behalf of the WMAS on the 27 September 2012 which specifically claims that “this facility is not intended to be used as a response station”. In the same document available to view on the Shropshire Council Planning Portal Robert Marsh, the Operational Transformational Lead for WMAS describes the intended facility as more of a depot than a station, and goes on to say “It is purely a starting point and not a dedicated response point.”

Those assurances regarding the nature of the building have clearly been broken. A copy of all of these documents are enclosed for your information.

I very much look forward to receiving a response to both our concerns and those of the residents of the town.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Nat Green
Chair of Shrewsbury Town Council’s Planning Committee

cc: Councillor Lezley Picton, Leader of Shropshire Council
Tracy Darke, Assistant Director, Economy and Place, Shropshire Council