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**To:** [Planning Comments \(HPBC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Comment Received from Public Access  
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Application Reference No. : HPK/2023/0189

Site Address: High Peak Halls Bridge Street Buxton Derbyshire SK17 6BB Buxton

Comments by: J Chorlton

From:

Gadley Close  
Buxton  
Buxton  
Derbyshire

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Objection

Comments: I object to this application. The wording of the application is disingenuous and deliberately vague. We now learn ( initially via the Glossop Chronicle rather than our own local newspaper ) that the intention is for the accommodation to be used to house up to 300 asylum seekers. This is a major change of use. To re-purpose accommodation intended for male and female students mostly under the age of 24 who are actively studying and using the accommodation in term time only, with asylum seekers who are predominantly single males in their 20s and 30s, who would not have any gainful occupation during the day and who would be housed there for 52 weeks of the year with a constant turnover of people, will lead to instability in the town. The buildings themselves may not be impacted by their arrival, but local GPs, Dentists and other social services would be hugely impacted. Like many local people, my family has had direct experience of the existing strain on local services. The earliest I could book to have a telephone conversation to discuss end of life care for my dying Mother was 4 weeks and she died before the appointment could take place. Another family member is on a dentist waiting list and has been told it will be about 2 years before he can be seen. Local people will not take kindly to people, many of whom have entered the country illegally, being prioritised over their own families who pay taxes to fund services.

Buxton is a tourist town. Most people who visit do not come for the expensive pleasure of participating in the Buxton International Festival and the Gilbert and Sullivan Festival. They are mostly day-trippers bringing their families to the Pavilion Gardens for their children to play safely in the park and enjoy its facilities and those, often older people, who enjoy sitting in the park listening to various local bands in Summer. Where do the University and Council imagine most of the asylum seekers will gather? Many of our children walk through the park to school and many locals go running in the park. Will people still feel safe doing so, especially in the darker winter months?

The small market town of Buxton has hosted the University for many years but we are very different from a city hosting a university with all the infrastructure that goes with that.

I am very concerned that the university submitted a previous application in March 2023 which was then withdrawn prior to the Local Elections. On that submission (HPK/2023/0129) two councillors are named. Therefore, at least two local councillors must have been aware of the University of Derby's intentions. Why was the issue not raised at the time of the Local Elections so that the people of Buxton could have asked councillors where they stand on the issue of housing such a large number of asylum seekers and then we could have cast our ballot in the full knowledge of what was being planned for our town.

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