

3rd July 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the proposed Drug Rehabilitation Unit due to open on Minster Museum, I am against the idea of it coming to Minster.

I've lived in Minster all my life, 15 long years. I have noticed that the village has changed a lot in this time. A couple of years ago, the time capsule in the churchyard was placed down, which I took part in and have a picture in. That was when the village was nice and there was no skate park, no all-weather pitch and no wide paths past Bens, which causes traffic to come to gridlock.

Now the museum is being taken away from us and replaced with a Rehab centre. A few upsetting days came when the museum closed and my family received a few items (including a walnut tree sign), which meant a lot to the village years ago. Many of you might not remember there been a walnut tree at 42 High Street, but my family does; it's a bit of my family history. Watching as Roy placed these items at the end of the driveway brought a tear to all of our eyes.

Places like Ramsgate or Margate need the centre more than people in Minster; maybe the Rehab developers could re-think the idea and move it to these places instead. If the centre was to come to Minster, drugs and alcohol could become a large problem, although the people in the centre wouldn't be allowed out during the day, but what about the evenings and during the night, what's stopping them then? Also for these people to get to Minster, they are likely to get public transport, the only two main transports into Minster are South Eastern trains and Eastonways buses, many elderly or especially school children get these buses, couldn't this increase damage and crime on these transports.

Looking at the Pathways website, they say the only people going to the centre are people who have given it up and just need a helping hand towards completely stopping. Sending people to jail for committing a crime, they are now "sorry" for, doesn't always stop them from doing it again, so would this?

Maybe some of the residents of Minster shouldn't have been rude at the meetings, but many of us are very angry. Many of the people at these meetings are middle-aged, and I believe the nuns, Kenny, Dr Stephen Ladyman MP and Kevin haven't really heard opinions from the future generation.

Miss Z. Bates