

Dickens' Country Protection Society



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Gravesham Borough Council
Planning Department
Civic Centre
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13th November 2024

Dear Mrs A Webster

Re Former Tollgate Hotel, Watling Street, Gravesend Kent
Demolition of existing buildings to provide an EV charging hub
and petrol filling station, including 24 charging bays and supporting
electrical infrastructure (12 charging upstands, three substations and
two network cabinets), six fuel pump islands with canopy above, a
forecourt shop/amenity building, customer parking, two air and water
spaces and associated hardstanding and landscaping, accessed from the
Wrotham Road/eastbound A2 roundabout junction.
Planning Application - **GR/2024/0856**

The above planning application has come to the Society's notice and, whilst the site is outside the Society's area of benefit, our members use the local road network and the potential impact of the development on the Tollgate Junction on the M2 could be significant.

Whereas the recent developments of Coldharbour housing and retail sites, only a proportion of the traffic generated will use the junctions; with this proposal a hundred percent of the traffic will use the junction. There could be in excess of fifty vehicles on the site at any one time. Charging electric vehicles would retain them on site longer than petrol filling as would refreshment facilities, reducing hourly traffic flows.

With the closure of two service stations and a café on the west bound A2 and the increase in the number of electric vehicles there is clearly a need for a facility, the question is what is to be done to increase the capacity of the junction.

The roundabouts need to be enlarged to increase capacity and increased to three lanes. There needs to be direct access (slip lane off the northern roundabout) onto Coldharbour Road. Direct access from the A227 onto the west bound A2 would also help.