



Gravesham Borough Council

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Windmill Street
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Kent
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Highways and Transportation

Kroner House

Eurogate Business Park
Ashford

TN24 8XU

Tel: 03000 418181

Date: 11 July 2023

Our Ref:

Application - GB/20230366

Location - Clifton Slipways, West Street, Gravesend, Kent

Proposal - Application for variation of condition 2 and 7 attached to planning permission reference no. 20191122 for the erection of two buildings to provide residential units (Use Class C3) with associated vehicle parking, cycle storage, highway works, and landscaping. Building 1 comprises the erection of a 23 storey tower on the north side of West Street to provide residential dwellings with B1a floor space at ground floor level; and Building 2 from four storeys to 12 storeys on the south side of West Street which will provide residential dwellings. The proposal includes the restoration and adaptation of the existing pier structure to provide public and private amenity space to include the erection of Business units (Class B1a) and a cafe (Class A1/A3); to revise the approved plans to reconfigure the layout of the West Street Block to provide for an additional staircase and increase the number of secure cycle spaces by 13; and to remove the basement at lower ground, relocation of bin store and plant, reduction of 23 car parking spaces and replacement of car parking at level 0 with 9 additional units (loss of 55 car parking spaces) within the Stuart Road Block.

Thank you for your consultation in relation to the above planning application. I have the following comments to make with respect to highway matters :-

The parking provision which proposes a reduction from 111 to 56 is acceptable in such a town centre location where there is adequate public car parks that could accommodate any overspill arising. The increase of Car Club provision helps to offset any such reduction in car parking and will potentially reduce the car ownership in these to residential blocks. The KCC Residential Parking Standards (IGN3) recommends a maximum level of car parking in a town centre location and therefore there is no justification in objection to the lower parking provision.

I would recommend that a Car Parking Management Plan is submitted and approved prior to first occupation to ensure that certain residents are given priority in parking allocation.

I therefore raise no objection on highway grounds to this application provided the above CPMP is Conditioned.

Informative: It is important to note that planning permission does not convey any approval to carry out works on or affecting the public highway.

Any changes to or affecting the public highway in Kent require the formal agreement of the Highway Authority, Kent County Council (KCC), and it should not be assumed that this will be a given because planning permission has been granted. For this reason, anyone considering works which may affect the public highway, including any highway-owned street furniture, is advised to engage with KCC Highways and Transportation at an early stage in the design process.

Across the county there are pieces of land next to private homes and gardens that do not look like roads or pavements but are actually part of the public highway. Some of this highway land is owned by Kent County Council whilst some is owned by third party owners. Irrespective of the ownership, this land may have highway rights over the topsoil.

Works on private land may also affect the public highway. These include works to cellars, to retaining walls which support the highway or land above the highway, and to balconies, signs or other structures which project over the highway. Such works also require the approval of the Highway Authority.

Kent County Council has now introduced a formal technical approval process for new or altered highway assets, with the aim of improving future maintainability. This process applies to all development works affecting the public highway other than applications for vehicle crossings, which are covered by a separate approval process.

Should the development be approved by the Planning Authority, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure, before the development is commenced, that all necessary highway approvals and consents have been obtained and that the limits of the highway boundary have been clearly established, since failure to do so may result in enforcement action being taken by the Highway Authority. The applicant must also ensure that the details shown on the approved plans agree in every aspect with those approved under the relevant legislation and common law. It is therefore important for the applicant to contact KCC Highways and Transportation to progress this aspect of the works prior to commencement on site.

Guidance for applicants, including information about how to clarify the highway boundary and links to application forms for vehicular crossings and other highway matters, may be found on Kent County Council's website:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-permits-and-licences/highways-permissions-and-technical-guidance>. Alternatively, KCC Highways and Transportation may be contacted by telephone: 03000 418181

Yours Faithfully

Director of Highways & Transportation

*This is a statutory technical response on behalf of KCC as Highway Authority. If you wish to make representations in relation to highways matters associated with the planning application under consideration, please make these directly to the Planning Authority.