



Gravesham Borough Council

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Highways and Transportation

Kroner House
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
TN24 8XU

Tel: 03000 418181

Date: 17 June 2025

Our Ref: AC

Application - GB/20250491

Location - Land At Market Square And Horn Yard Car Parks , New Swan Yard, Gravesend, DA12 2EN

Proposal - Application for approval of conditions 22 attached to planning permission reference number 20200343 relating to a strategy for the allocation and safeguarding of parking spaces for the occupiers of the development.

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 information contained within the submitted documents is unclear and further information is requested as follows:

- The condition wording relates to "*parking spaces*". It is unclear whether this relates solely to vehicle parking or whether it should include cycle parking also. Cycle parking is not currently referenced in the submission documents.
- The 'Supplementary Information' document refers to barrier controlled areas, but no barriers are shown on the plans. The plans should be updated to show these.
- Plan 04051 (Level 00 GA Plan) shows a roller shutter located at the car park entrance. Please confirm if this is controlled by ANPR to allow residents access when the public car park is closed.
- Based on the Kent Highways response to the original application (dated 5th June 2020) it is understood that a small number of parking bays are to be provided on New Swan Yard and Bank Street for short term parking. However, these are not referred to in the submission.
- The allocated spaces for the medical centre do not contain any disabled spaces, which is unusual. Are these spaces for staff or patients?
- Whilst the overall quantum remains the same, the allocation of residential vs public spaces has changed by one space. Whilst this is unlikely to affect the adopted highway, no explanation has been given.

I would like to place a holding objection on the application until the above information has been submitted and approved.

It is important to note that Local Planning Authority (LPA) 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 LPA planning permission has been granted.

For this reason, anyone considering works which may affect the public highway, including any highway-owned street furniture or landscape assets such as grass, shrubs and trees, 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 and near the highway 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 pre-application advice service in addition to a full formal technical approval process for new or altered highway assets, with the aim of improving future maintainability. Further details are available on our website below:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-permits-and-licences/highways-permissions-and-technical-guidance>.

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. Further details on this are available on our website below:

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-permits-and-licences/apply-for-a-dropped-kerb/dropped-kerb-contractor-information>

Once planning approval for any development has been granted by the LPA, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that before development commences, 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.

Further 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.