



Gravesham Borough Council

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Highways and Transportation

Kroner House

Eurogate Business Park
Ashford

TN24 8XU

Tel: 03000 418181

Date: 8 February 2024

Our Ref:

Application - GB/20231247

Location - Jackson Family Holdings Ltd, Unit K6, Northfleet Industrial Estate, Lower Road Northfleet

Proposal - Change of use of building to a mixed warehouse and office use together with erection of first and second floor extension and construction of a multi level car park, together with associated earthworks and drainage.

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

I refer to my previous response on 3rd January 2024 and note that an updated Transport Assessment dated 22nd January 2024 has been submitted. This latest TA includes a "snapshot" parking survey carried out recently that demonstrates that the parking stress levels have not changed significantly since the previous survey carried out in September 2021.

In respect of parking demand generated by the proposed development, it is demonstrated that whilst the 66 parking spaces proposed should be adequate, that there are sufficient on-street parking spaces on the local roads within a 500m radius to accommodate any excess overspill. A key component to keeping parking demand from the development is kept to a minimum is a robust Travel Plan to encourage employees to use means of travel other than the private car. The location of this proposal means that it is well served by public transport with the Fastrack bus service running nearby and a number of rail stations within a reasonable walking distance, and the proposal for a mini-bus service to take employees to those stations would be an additional benefit and is welcomed. Whilst an outline travel plan has been provided with the submitted Transport Assessment, I would recommend a Condition is applied to any consent granted for a full Travel Plan which is to be submitted and approved prior to the first occupation of the new premises. I would also recommend that this TP includes the distribution of free bus travel passes (including Fastrack) to employees for at least the first year of operation to encourage the use of public transport.

I therefore raise no objection to this application on highway grounds provided the following Conditions are applied to any consent granted:

1 The development shall not be brought into use until a Travel Plan, to reduce dependency on the private car, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Travel Plan shall include objectives and modal-split targets, a programme of implementation and provision for monitoring, review and improvement. Thereafter, the Travel Plan shall be put into action and adhered to throughout the life of the development, or that of

the Travel Plan itself, whichever is the shorter. Such a Travel Plan shall include the distribution of free bus passes (including the FastTrack service) for a minimum of 12 months from first occupation.

2 Submission of a Construction Management Plan before the commencement of any development on site to include the following:

- (a) Routing of construction and delivery vehicles to / from site
- (b) Parking and turning areas for construction and delivery vehicles and site personnel
- (c) Timing of deliveries
- (d) Provision of wheel washing facilities
- (e) Temporary traffic management / signage

3 Provision and permanent retention of secure, covered cycle parking facilities prior to the use of the site commencing in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

4 Provision and permanent retention of the vehicle parking spaces shown on the submitted plans prior to the use of the site commencing.

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.