



To: **Planning Reps**
From **Highways Development Management Officer**

Date 18th January 2024

Your Ref 20231319

Location St Josephs Convent Of Mercy Hillside Drive Gravesend Kent DA12 1NY

This is a very difficult application, as everything revolves around the use as a Convent, which is outside normal highway guidance, and in particular the Sisters of Mercy. However, over time the occupants will change as the elderly sisters relocate or die. If younger nuns do not join the order, then the property will either have to be sold as a convent or more likely repurposed, although this would potentially require a new planning application for a change of use.

It is noted that the application form states 11 parking spaces exist and will be retained. However, parking demand could vary should younger nuns join the order, or a different order occupies the property.

The Design and Access reference to cycle parking is noted, but the applicant needs to note, it is for cycles including adaptive and not bicycles. It therefore includes tricycles and electric assisted cycles as well as bicycles and could provide cycle parking for staff as well as residents.

It is therefore suggested the applicant is required to submit a parking plan for the parking of 11 Kent standard parking spaces as defined in KCC SPG4, it should be noted that there is an increase in width if a vehicle is parked adjacent to an enclosing boundary. Plus secure cycle parking for a minimum of 2 cycles, including an electrical connection for battery cycles.

It is also suggested that the permission is restricted to the Sisters of Mercy, to allow the Council the opportunity of considering any possible changes as a result of a change of occupier.

Les Seaborn
Highway Development Management Officer

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