

Site visit 13.00 07 May 2025 at 38 Forder House, Shepherd Street, Northfleet

Case Officer Notes

Met Mr Ali at the application property. He set out that he owns the application property [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It is currently vacant and the electricity is switched off (NB the property had some furnishings e.g. beds with mattresses, white goods etc but there was no sign of any occupation.

KJ asked Mr Ali to explain his business. He set out that he operates school contracts with two or three children being driven to school by two or three drivers. He is registered with KCC and he bids for contracts to take individual children to school. All the correspondence etc for the business is electronic.

The drivers are licenced by GBC and he gets confirmation from them that they have a licence. But he also needs to be licenced by GBC as an operator but he cannot get this licence without a planning permission. He emailed the planning office querying whether he needs to submit a pre-application enquiry regarding the planning permission but was advised to submit an LDC application.

He is currently licenced in Dartford (for four school runs) and operates from an office in Dartford but he needs an address in Gravesend to be able to get a licence to also run the business in Gravesend.

Mr Ali would be the only person employed in the proposed office and he would probably work for an hour or so in the morning and afternoon.

His friend may stay at the application property but it may be kept empty. He has no firm plans as yet. When I explained that to operate a home office, he would have to occupy the premises himself, Mr Ali said he would move there or have the property as a second home. But when asked specifically, he confirmed that he currently lives in [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Mr Ali was unsure if there is an allocated parking space for the application property but there is a communal car park. The property has its own shed located at the rear.

Kelly Joyce 07 May 2025