



Gravesham Borough Council

Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 1AU

Highways and Transportation

Ashford Highway Depot
4 Javelin Way
Ashford
TN24 8AD

Tel: 03000 418181

Date: 26 April 2022

Our Ref:

Application - GB/20211478

Location - Little Acres, Longfield Avenue, Gravesend, Longfield Kent

Proposal - Demolition of all buildings and the erection of 16 static homes restricted to those aged 55 and above, with associated management office, internal vehicular access road and parking.

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 application is supported by a Transport Statement dated October 2021, the content of which appears to be generally acceptable although it is felt that some of the walking distances to local facilities are excessive for residents over 55 and are more likely to travel by private car. However, this is not considered to be sufficient grounds for refusal.

The main concern relates to the visibility available at the egress point which is given as 11m x 2.4m in both direction, appropriate to a 10mph approaching vehicle speed. No evidence is provided for this assessment and it is suggested this may be low, even taking into account the width of the road and the unmetalled surface. A speed of 20 mph is considered more appropriate which would require visibility splays of 25m x 2.4m. A vehicle speed survey should be submitted to provide evidence that a lower speed is appropriate.

Car and cycle parking is proposed in accordance with KCC standards.

I therefore confirm that provided the following requirements are secured by condition or planning obligation, then I would raise no objection on behalf of the local highway authority:-

- 1 Provision and maintenance of 25 metres x 2.4 metres x 25 metres visibility splays at the access with no obstructions over 1.05 metres above carriageway level within the splays, prior to use of the site commencing.
- 2 Provision and permanent retention of the cycle parking facilities shown on the submitted plans prior to the use of the site commencing.
- 3 Provision and permanent retention of the vehicle parking spaces and/or garages shown on the submitted plans prior to the use of the site commencing.
- 4 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

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 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.

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