



Vet School Main Building
Daphne Jackson Road
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 7AL
13th May 2022

Re: Proposed development at Meopham Veterinary Hospital

FAO: Gravesham Borough Council Planning Department

I write in support of the proposed development at Meopham Veterinary Hospital. My colleague Chris Proudman has submitted an additional letter detailing the position within the veterinary sector and the requirement to train undergraduate veterinary surgeons to fill the gaps within the workforce created by a number of factors including Brexit and the additional number of pet-owning homes since the Covid pandemic. This has caused a perfect storm of understaffed practices across the sector as a whole.

Hence it is imperative that new graduate veterinary students are trained to the highest level to be work place ready on graduation. At Surrey, our teaching model is such that students are immersed in and taught by vets in practice and Martin Hobbs and his team have provided clinical work placements for final year students since the initiation of our veterinary degree programme. My role is as an academic tutor and mentor for these undergraduates. It is a requirement by the Veterinary regulatory body that students have a rest area, a study area and a private place to meet with their mentor. At times, currently, these areas are under pressure in a busy practice and don't necessarily provide a quiet, private place to meet or study. Thus, these enhanced facilities will impact in a very positive way on the student learning experience. It is also the case that for the clientele to park within easy reach of the surgery, our students have to park some way from the practice due to the lack of extra parking capacity. In the winter months this may mean they are returning to their cars in an unfamiliar place and in the dark. The enhanced on site parking will mean they can park more safely. We do have students with mobility issues or other disabilities and it will also mean that they can park with much easier access.

The new dedicated facilities will supplement many of the subjects we teach including euthanasia when appropriate, advanced imaging (endoscopy and CT), pharmacology and sterility.

I drive regularly to visit the students and travel in an electric vehicle. The EV charging points will mean that I can recharge whilst at the practice as will any students and clients. The sustainability advantage of this form of travel cannot be overstated.

It is also necessary for all vet students (at all UK Universities) to spend time during their course "seeing practice" at a clinic. Additionally any school children aspiring to become veterinary surgeons need to have work experience in the sector to enable them to apply to a vet school. This is done as a matter of goodwill by most practices and Martin has shown that he is very ready to "give back" to the community and the sector by his willingness to provide these placements. The improved facilities will help better support all visiting vet students and school pupils.

I am also a client of the practice which provides veterinary care for my own 2 dogs and I very much welcome this forward thinking proposal, to future proof the care the team will be able to provide for the rest of their lives and for any subsequent pets I will own.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rosser'.

Sian Rosser BVSc MRCVS FHEA