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Response to Planning application from Hertfordshire County Council (T and CP GDP Order 2015)

Director of Planning

North Hertfordshire Council
Council Offices
Gernon Road
Letchworth Garden City
Hertfordshire
SG6 3JF

District ref: 24/01965/AD
HCC ref: NH/22365/2024
HCC received: 19 September 2024
Area manager: Manjinder Sehmi
Case officer: Paul Marshall

Location

North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre , Baldock Road, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 2ER

Application type

Advertisement Consent

Proposal

Advertisement Consent : Installation of roadside sign, replace existing banner frame and level ground area following demolition of existing brick sign structure

Recommendation

Notice is given under article 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 that Hertfordshire County Council as Highway Authority does not wish to restrict the grant of permission.

HCC as Highway Authority recommends inclusion of the following Advisory Notes (AN) to ensure that any works within the highway are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Highway Act 1980.

AN1) Storage of materials: The applicant is advised that the storage of materials associated with the construction of this development should be provided within the site on land which is not public highway, and the use of such areas must not interfere with the public highway. If this is not possible, authorisation should be sought from the Highway Authority before construction works commence. Further information is available via the County Council website at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/business-and-developer-information/business-licences/business-licences.aspx> or by telephoning 0300 1234047.

AN2) Obstruction of highway: It is an offence under section 137 of the Highways Act 1980 for any person, without lawful authority or excuse, in any way to wilfully obstruct the free passage along a highway or public right of way. If this development is likely to result in the public highway or public right of way network becoming routinely blocked (fully or partly) the applicant must contact the Highway Authority to obtain their permission and requirements before construction works commence. Further information is available via the County Council website at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/business-and-developer-information/business-licences/business-licences.aspx> or by telephoning 0300 1234047.

COMMENTS

The proposals are for installation of roadside sign, replace existing banner frame and level ground area following demolition of existing brick sign structure. Baldock Road is maintainable by the highway authority and is classified (B656) and provides a local distributor function in the road hierarchy. The vehicle speeds past this site are limited to 30 mph. There have been two recorded accidents near the site in a rolling 5-year period.

Advertisement Consent:

Policy Review:

The key documents used to assess the application are:

- Manual for Streets 2007
- National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023)
- Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Local Transport Plan-4 [2018-2031, May 2018]
- HCC's Place & Movement Planning Design Guidance (adopted in March 2024)

Documents

The Highway Authority notes the provision of material to support the application including Drawing Nos: Every One Active Document (Roadside Signage Planning Application) and Every One Active Document (Roadside Signage Site Plan)

The proposed location of the signage is situated on a grassed bank southeast of the roundabout with Baldock Road, Avenue One, and the access road to the Leisure Centre. The above documents show an oblong wooden sign and a wooden V shaped sign. These are far enough from the circulatory carriageway of the B656 so as to not impede pedestrians or distract drivers.

CONCLUSION

Subject to the informatives set out above, this level of development is unlikely to lead to demonstrable harm (in terms of distraction) for passing vehicles or impeding pedestrians. Therefore, the highway authority does not wish to restrict the grant of planning permission.

Signed

Paul Marshall

9 October 2024