



Mark Youngman
Development Management Group Manager
Hertfordshire County Council
Postal Point CHN115
Farnham House
Six Hills Way
Stevenage
SG1 2ST

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: 25/02374/AD
HCC ref: NH/26661/2025
HCC received: 30 September 2025
Area manager: Manjinder Sehmi
Case officer: Geoffrey McMahon

Location

Starwood House, Avenue One, Letchworth Garden City, Hertfordshire, SG6 2HB

Application type

Advertisement Consent

Proposal

Advertisement Consent : Installation of No.2 signs (development already carried out).

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 Note (AN) to ensure that any works affecting the highway are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Highways Act 1980.

AN1) 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. Notwithstanding any consent issued under the provision of the Town and Country Planning Acts, it is also an offence under Section 143 of the Highways Act 1980 to erect any advertisement sign in the confines of the highway. The Highway Authority has the power under the Highways Act 1980 to remove any structure erected on a highway.

COMMENTS

Site

Avenue One is an unclassified road maintainable at public expense having a local access function in the road hierarchy and a speed limit of 30 mph. In Hertfordshire's Place and Movement Network it has the category P2/M2 (e.g. Multi Function Road).

The second sign is located at the junction of Second and Third Avenues, which are both unclassified roads maintainable at public expense having a local access function in the road hierarchy and a speed limit of 30 mph. In Hertfordshire's Place and Movement Network they have the category P2/M2 (e.g. Multi Function Road).

There has been one slight collision respectively in Avenue One and Third Avenue over a five-year rolling period.

Policy Review

The key documents used to assess the application are:

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

Drawings

The Highway Authority notes the submission of documents in support of the proposal, including a Site Location Plan, Advertising Details and a Cover Letter.

Highway Impacts

The Highway Authority notes that the signs (which have already been erected) are not illuminated and are not designed or constructed in such a way as to endanger highway visibility or safety. The sign on Avenue One appears to have been positioned inside the boundary of the adopted highway, and the purpose of the Advisory Note is to remind the applicant of the implications of this.

CONCLUSION

Subject to the informative set out above, this level of development is unlikely to lead to demonstrable harm for users of the surrounding highway network. Therefore, the Highway Authority does not wish to restrict the grant of planning permission.

Signed

Geoff McMahon

13 October 2025