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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: 25/01430/FPH
HCC ref: NH/25361/2025
HCC received: 21 July 2025
Area manager: Manjinder Sehmi
Case officer: Paul Marshall

Location

9 PIRTON ROAD HOLWELL HITCHIN SG5 3SR

Application type

Full Application

Proposal

AMENDED PROPOSAL

Provision of vehicular access to property via
dropped kerb and vehicle crossover and alterations to existing front garden to
provide a driveway following removal of grass and hedge.

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 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.

AN3) Avoidance of surface water discharge onto the highway: The applicant is advised that the Highway Authority has powers under section 163 of the Highways Act 1980, to take appropriate steps where deemed necessary (serving notice to the occupier of premises adjoining a highway) to prevent water from the roof or other part of the premises falling upon persons using the highway, or to prevent so far as is reasonably practicable, surface water from the premises flowing on to, or over the footway of the highway.

AN4) New or amended vehicle crossover access (section 184): Where works are required within the public highway to facilitate a new or amended vehicular access, the Highway Authority require the construction of such works to be undertaken to their satisfaction and specification, and by a contractor who is authorised to work in the public highway. If any of the works associated with the construction of the access affects or requires the removal and/or the relocation of any equipment, apparatus or structures (e.g. street name plates, bus stop signs or shelters, statutory authority equipment etc.) the applicant will be required to bear the cost of such removal or alteration. Before works commence the applicant will need to apply to the Highway Authority to obtain their permission, requirements and for the work to be carried out on the applicant's behalf. Further information is available via the County Council website at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/highways-roads-and-pavements/changes-to-your-road/dropped-kerbs/dropped-kerbs.aspx> or by telephoning 0300 1234047.

COMMENTS

The proposals are for an amended proposal for provision of vehicular access to property via dropped kerb and vehicle crossover and alterations to existing front garden to provide a driveway following removal of grass and hedge.

Context:

Pirton Road is an unclassified local access road and provides a local access function in the road hierarchy. Pirton Road is highway maintainable at public expense. A 30mph speed limit applies. On Hertfordshire County Council's Place and Movement network Pirton Road is classed as P2/M1 (eg. Residential Street). No reportable highway accidents recorded within the immediate vicinity of the application site (5-year rolling). No Public Right of Way (as shown on the Public Rights of Way Map) directly affects the site or would be affected by the proposal. The county council considers Pirton Road not to be a traffic sensitive road.

Policy Review:

The key documents used to assess the application are

- Manual for Streets 2007
- National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)

- Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Local Transport Plan-4 [2018-2031, May2018]
- HCC's Place & Movement Planning Design Guidance (adopted in March 2024)

PLANNING HISTORY

The application site has previous planning history.

DRAWINGS

The Highway Authority note the submission of materials in support of the planning application, including drawing numbers: Site Diagram, TQRQM25161094059077, and Area Schedule

PARKING

The Highway Authority are satisfied the parking area can easily accommodate a single vehicle. There is no requirement for a vehicle to exit in a forward gear as Pirton Road is a local access road.

ACCESS

The proposed access will be no wider than four flat kerbs. This is the widest dropped kerb that we will allow. You will also be provided with two ramped kerbs

VISIBILITY

Vehicular

Vehicle-to-vehicle inter-visibility have an acceptable level of vehicle visibility and accords with the principles found in Hertfordshire's Place & Movement Planning Design Guide Part 4 Chapter 6 section 18.1, page 70.

Pedestrian

The site presents no physical features that would obstruct pedestrian visibility, ensuring clear sightlines for safe and unobstructed movement.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

The nature of the site puts the proposals / access within 45 meters from the public highway (As required in accordance with MfS 6.7.2)

REFUSE / RECYCLING

The proposals for recycling bin storage must be in line with Manual for Streets MfS 6.8.9 residents should not be required to carry waste more than 30m and be within 25m of the kerbside/bin collection point.

CONCLUSION

Should the LPA be minded to approve the application please note the above conditions and informatives. This level of development is unlikely to generate any extra movements which would ultimately lead to demonstrable harm to the highway network in terms of free flow and capacity, therefore; the highway authority would not wish to restrict the grant of planning permission.

Signed

Paul Marshall

12 August 2025