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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: 24/01864/FP
HCC ref: NH/22602/2024
HCC received: 14 October 2024
Area manager: Manjinder Sehmi
Case officer: Paul Marshall

Location

Caxton Villa , 14 Park Lane, Knebworth, Hertfordshire, SG3 6PF

Application type

Full Application

Proposal

Full Planning Permission : Conversion of existing dwelling into 6 self-contained flats (5 x 1-bed and 1 x 2-bed) to include two storey side extension; landscaping; fencing; parking; refuse and cycle storage and boundary treatments following demolition of existing garage

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 subject to the following conditions:

(CON1) Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby permitted 2.0 x 2.0 metre pedestrian visibility splays shall thereafter be retained at all times to each side of the access. They shall be measured from the point where the edges of the access way cross the highway boundary, 2.0 metres into the site and 2.0 metres along the highway boundary therefore forming a triangular visibility splay. Within which, there shall be no obstruction to visibility between 0.6 metres and 2.0 metres above the carriageway.

Reason: To ensure construction of a satisfactory development and in the interests of highway pedestrian safety in accordance with Policies 5 and 7 of Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan (adopted 2018).

(CON2) Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby permitted a visibility splay measuring 2.4 x 43 metres shall be provided to each side of the access where it meets the highway, and such

splays shall thereafter be retained at all times free from any obstruction between 600mm and 2m above the level of the adjacent highway carriageway.

Reason: To ensure that the level of visibility for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles is satisfactory in the interests of highway safety in accordance with Policy 5 of Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan (adopted 2018).

No development shall commence until a Construction Method Statement has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, including elements of the CLOCS standards as set out in the Highway Authority's Construction Management template. Thereafter the construction of the development shall only be carried out in accordance with the approved Plan: The Construction Management Statement shall include details of:

Access arrangements to the site.

Traffic management requirements if any.

Construction and storage compounds (including areas designated for car parking, loading / unloading and turning areas).

Siting and details of wheel washing facilities.

Cleaning of site entrances, site tracks and the adjacent public highway.

Timing of construction activities (including delivery times and removal of waste) and to avoid school pick up/drop off times.

Provision of sufficient on-site parking prior to commencement of construction activities.

Post construction restoration/reinstatement of the working areas and temporary access to the public highway.

Where works cannot be contained wholly within the site a plan should be submitted showing the site layout on the highway including extent of hoarding which must be kept within the site boundary, pedestrian routes and remaining road width for vehicle movements.

Reason: In order to protect highway safety and the amenity of other users of the public highway and rights of way in accordance with Policies 5, 12, 17 and 22 of Hertfordshire's Local Transport Plan (adopted 2018).

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) Debris and deposits on the highway: It is an offence under section 148 of the Highways Act 1980 to deposit compost, dung or other material for dressing land, or any rubbish on a made up carriageway, or any or other debris on a highway to the interruption of any highway user. Section 149 of the same Act gives the Highway Authority powers to remove such material at the expense of the party responsible. Therefore, best practical means shall be taken at all times to ensure that all vehicles leaving the site during construction of the development and use thereafter are in a condition such as not to emit dust or deposit mud, slurry or other debris on the highway. Further information is available by telephoning 0300 1234047.

AN4) 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.

COMMENTS

The proposals are for the conversion of existing dwelling into 6 self-contained flats (5 x 1-bed and 1 x 2-bed) to include two storey side extension; landscaping; fencing; parking; refuse and cycle storage and boundary treatments following demolition of existing garage.

Park Lane is maintainable by the highway authority and is unclassified and provides a local access function in the road hierarchy. The vehicle speeds past this site are limited to 30 mph. There have been no recorded accidents near the site in a rolling 5-year period.

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]
- Cycle Infrastructure Design DfT Local Transport Note 1/20 (July 2020)
- HCC's Place & Movement Planning Design Guidance (adopted in March 2024)

PLANNING HISTORY

The application site has recent planning history.

DRAWINGS

The Highway Authority note the submission of materials in support of the planning application, including drawing numbers: NA-240450-PL-101A, 201, 202 Rev A, and Design & Access Statement (D&A)

Cycle Parking

Drawing (Ref- NA-240450-PL-202 Rev A) illustrates covered and lockable cycle stores. These more than conform to the 'Cycle Infrastructure Design' DfT Local Transport Note 1/20 (July 2020) which recommends for cycle parking storage should be 2m (1.8m is acceptable) in length by 0.3m space between cycles. There should be parking for 1 cycle per dwelling. Outside cycle parking should be covered and lockable. The provision of well-located, safe and secure cycle parking for residents and visitors is a key factor in encouraging people to cycle as an alternative to using the private car.

PARKING

Drawing (Ref- NA-240450-PL-101 Ref A) illustrates parking for 10 vehicles including the two visitor spaces. Each space measure 2.5 x 5.0 meters except for the two spaces that run end to end on the western boundary side of the site which are 3.0 x 6.0 meters, these all conform to HCC's Place & Movement Planning Design Guidance (adopted in March 2024).

The LPA as the parking authority would need to compare the number of spaces against its own standards.

ACCESS

Drawing (Ref- NA-240450-PL-101 Ref A) illustrates two existing accesses. The access to the eastern boundary of the site is for flat 6 which is two bedrooms. The remaining spaces are for the 5 x 1 bed flats which are accessed from the western boundary access. As Park Lane is an unclassified road, vehicles are allowed to enter and exit in reverse gear.

VISIBILITY

Vehicular

Achievable levels of inter-visibility between drivers exiting the site and other highway users (vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians) are not demonstrated on submitted plans.

A visibility splay of 43m in each direction would be consistent with Manual for Streets, Table 7.1 and PMPDG Part 3 Ch9 para 12 for a 30mph speed environment (set-back) 2.4m from the carriageway. (Please see Condition 1)

Pedestrian

As above, no pedestrian visibility splays have been provided. There should be a triangular visibility splay measuring 2 x 2 x 2 meters. Within the vertical plane, there should be no obstruction to visibility 2m high down to a point 600mm above the carriageway, the latter to ensure that small children can be seen (MfS 7.6.3), passing along the footway. (Please see Condition 2)

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. This is fully illustrated on Drawing (Ref NA-240450-PL-202 Rev A)

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT STATEMENT

It is important that a CMS is provided considering the nature of the residential area. The statement must have or be shown as a drawing of the construction site and the dedicated areas within. These should include but not limited to, construction vehicle parking area, wheel washing, and storage area. (Please see Condition 3) above

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

31 October 2024