



## Developments Affecting Trunk Roads and Special Roads

### Highways England Planning Response (HEPR 16-01)

### Formal Recommendation to an Application for Planning Permission

From: Nicola Bell (Regional Director, South East)  
Operations Directorate  
South East Region  
Highways England  
[PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk)

To: Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council – FAO Case Officer David Elmore  
[planning@welhat.gov.uk](mailto:planning@welhat.gov.uk)

CC: [spatialplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:spatialplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk)

**Council's Reference:** 6/2020/3222/MAJ

**Location:** Former Volkswagen Van Centre, Comet Way, Hatfield, AL10 9TF

**Proposal:** Demolition of existing buildings and construction of new building comprising 118 residential apartments, layout of parking areas, landscaping, electricity substation and ancillary development

**Highways England Ref:** #90231

Referring to the notification of a planning application dated 11 January 2021 referenced above, in the vicinity of the A1(M) that forms part of the Strategic Road Network, notice is hereby given that Highways England's formal recommendation is that we:

- a) offer no objection\*;

*\*This is on the basis that the proposals will generate minimal additional traffic on the SRN in Peak Hours. We therefore consider that the development will not materially affect the safety, reliability and / or operation of the SRN (the tests set out in DfT C2/13 para 10 and MHCLG NPPF para 109), in this location.*

*This formal response should be read alongside Highways England's covering letter dated 7 June 2021.*

- ~~b) recommend that conditions should be attached to any planning permission that may be granted (see Annex A – Highways England recommended Planning Conditions);~~
- ~~e) recommend that planning permission not be granted for a specified period (see Annex A – further assessment required);~~
- ~~d) recommend that the application be refused (see Annex A – Reasons for recommending Refusal).~~

Highways Act Section 175B is not relevant to this application.<sup>1</sup>

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND (“we”) have been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such we work to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

This represents Highways England’s formal recommendation.

Should the Local Planning Authority disagree with this recommendation they must consult the Secretary of State for Transport, as per the Town and Country Planning (Development Affecting Trunk Roads) Direction 2018, via [transportplanning@dft.gov.uk](mailto:transportplanning@dft.gov.uk)

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|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>Signature:</b>    | <b>Date:</b> 7 June 2021         |
| <b>Name:</b> Janice Burgess   | <b>Position:</b> Spatial Planner |
| <b>Highways England:</b><br>Highways England, Bridge House, 1 Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ<br><a href="mailto:PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk">PlanningSE@highwaysengland.co.uk</a> |                                  |

<sup>1</sup> Where relevant, further information will be provided within Annex A.