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

Director of Planning

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
Hertfordshire
AL8 6AW

District ref: 6/2022/2582/FULL
HCC ref: WH/14665/2022
HCC received: 14 April 2023
Area manager: Manjinder Sehmi
Case officer: Chris Carr

Location

Chancellors School, Pine Grove, Brookmans Park, Hatfield, AL9 7BN

Application type

Full Application

Proposal

AMENDED PROPOSAL

Laying of engineered surface for the provision of additional car parking and erection of fencing

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 recommends that permission be refused for the following reasons:

Site Description

The site is located approximately 3km to the south-east of Welham Green. It is accessed via the school access road, which joins Pine Grove, a residential street.

Analysis

The application above was initially made in 2022. At this time the LHA responded with the following decision:

“Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Highway Authority wishes to recommend refusal of the planning application. The LHA consider that additional car parking would be contrary to HCC Local Transport Plan Policies 1 and 5. Additional parking to support the expansion of the school was approved for planning application 6/2019/0085/MAJ. It is considered that further additional parking would be unacceptable.”

This was primarily due to LHA concerns that an increase in car parking would encourage more Sixth Formers to drive to school and, as such, this would be against the aim of the School Travel Plan of encouraging sustainable travel.

In January 2023 the headteacher of Chancellors School, David Croston, responded to this refusal and his comments are summarised below:

- Sixth Form students are unable to park on school grounds, therefore, additional parking would not encourage further school related journeys.
- There is inadequate parking at the school. Currently 75% of school staff are able to use parking whilst the remaining use the school access road and Pine Grove to park.
- There is concern related to recruitment and retention of staff.
- Pine Grove residents have requested that they be consulted on resident parking. Therefore, staff nor students would be able to park here should this move ahead.

Comments

In response to Mr Croston's letter the LPA would support the following approach: -

- The LHA request a formal survey of the current parking situation, both using existing parking arrangements on site and off site. If possible, an understanding of whether these are teachers, support staff or pupils would be useful. To ensure a robust assessment at least 2/3 days of surveys is required.
- Once the surveys have been undertaken it will be necessary to compare the amount of parking proposed to that which is currently informally occurring.
- Parking on the footpath along the access road to the school needs to be stopped, particularly on the section which is highway. This goes against HCC safety standards in design and policy and is not acceptable. Therefore along with any increase to parking the LHA request further information on what changes are going to be proposed in the school travel plan.

Signed
Chris Carr

2 May 2023