



Mark Youngman
Development Management Group Manager
Hertfordshire County Council
Postal Point CH0242
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford
SG13 8DE

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: 6/2022/2811/ADV
HCC ref: WH/16084/2023
HCC received: 16 March 2023
Area manager: Manjinder Sehmi
Case officer: Senober Khan

Location

15 Howardsgate Welwyn Garden City AL8 6BU

Application type

Advertisement Consent

Proposal

Installation of x2 non-illuminated signs, 1 externally illuminated sign, retractable canopy, barriers at front of the restaurant and 1 externally illuminated projection sign (retrospective)

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:

Conditions:

The development hereby approved shall keep any street furniture consisting of tables/chairs/ancillary strictly within the area line in accordance with the approved plan, and then removed at the end of trading to safeguard pedestrian movement and from becoming a permanent feature on the footway.

Informative:

A Pavement Licence is required.

The applicant is advised that permission must be obtained from the Highway Authority using the provisions of Part VIIA, Section 115 (A-K) of the Highways Act 1980 to allow Tables and Chairs to be placed on land forming part of the publicly maintained highway.

No storage of materials on footway/highway.

The applicant is advised that there should be no storage of any equipment, machinery or materials on the footway/highway.

Highway comments:

The proposal involves the installation of x2 non-illuminated signs, 1 externally illuminated sign, retractable canopy, barriers at front of the restaurant and 1 externally illuminated projection sign (retrospective).

The HA has no objection concerning the above proposals except the external seating and barriers for which the HA has the following comments to make:

HCC in common with other Local Authorities have policies aimed at reducing street clutter in order to improve the overall environment and safety for all road users, in particular pedestrian movement in busy locations where significantly wider footways are required.

The proposal involves the installation of portable barriers placed around the street furniture consisting of tables and chairs along the full length of the sites frontage and extending out by 1.9m from the sites frontage. Given the footway width on the submitted plan is shown to be 5.246m and 1.9m is required for portable barrier/outside seating this would result in 3.346m wide unobstructed footway path.

Whilst clutter free pedestrian footways are preferred, however given the relatively wide footway at the proposed sites location, the proposed portable barrier/tables and chairs will result in an unobstructed pedestrian path of more than 3m in width. Street furniture/tables and chairs in locations in the town centre are acceptable provided that at least 3m width of unobstructed pedestrian paths are available.

Therefore, given there is a tolerable width of 3.346m for pedestrians to use, the proposals is not expected to have any significant detrimental impact on pedestrian safety, flow, movements or comfort.

The HA would not raise any objection for granting a café pavement licence for tables, chairs and ancillaries subject to being removed at the end of trading to safeguard pedestrian movement and from becoming a permanent feature on the footway.

RECOMMENDATION:

No objection subject to the following conditions:

Signed

Senober Khan

8 April 2023