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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: 6/2025/0777/FULL
HCC ref: WH/24800/2025
HCC received: 15 May 2025
Area manager: Manjinder Sehmi
Case officer: Shamsul Huda

Location

DIGSWELL METHODIST CHURCH WARREN WAY DIGSWELL WELWYN AL6 0DH

Application type

Full Application

Proposal

AMENDED PROPOSAL

Refurbishment and partial internal reordering of Digswell Village Church, with no change of use

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:

CONDITION: Provision for Parking Spaces:

Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby permitted, all proposed car and parking spaces for cars and cycles as shown on the proposed Site Plan -Option 3 (Ref-2420- MEB -XXXX D-R A3-112, PO2) shall be provided and retained thereafter permanently for cycle parking.

Reason: To ensure the provision of cycle parking spaces in line with the Council's adopted standards.

Informative:

AN) 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.

AN) 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.

AN) 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.

COMMENTS:

Key policy documents used to assess the applications are.

- National Planning Policy Framework (Dec 2023)
- Hertfordshire County Council's (HCC) Local Transport Plan-4 [2018-2031, May2018]
- HCC's Place & Movement Planning Design Guidance adopted in March 2024
- WH Local Planning policy [2016-2036]
- WH Supplementary Planning Guidance -parking standards 2004
- WH Parking Strategy 2020-2023

This is an amended application for refurbishment and partial internal reordering of Digswell Village Church, with no change of use. This time, the applicant has provided improved parking arrangements in the light of previous comments made on 8th May 2025.

In summary, no new access or alteration to the existing access off public highways are proposed. Therefore, the Hertfordshire County Council as Highway Authority has considered that the development is small in scale and will not have unacceptable impacts on the highway network in the vicinity. Hence, no objection to the proposal is recommended, subject to the above-mentioned condition.

Signed

Shamsul Huda

22 May 2025