

Substantive response of the Local Highway Authority to a planning consultation received under The Development Management Order.



Response provided under the delegated authority of the Director of Environment & Transport.

APPLICATION DETAILS:

Planning Application Number: 23/00525/HOU

Highway Reference Number: 2023/0525/04/H

Application Address: 7 Northfield Road Hinckley Leicestershire LE10 0LH

Application Type: Householder

Description of Application:

Dropped kerb

GENERAL DETAILS

Planning Case Officer: Sophie Iliffe

Applicant: Suzie Mensforth

County Councillor: Cllr Stuart Bray

Parish:

Road Classification: Class C

Substantive Response provided in accordance with article 22(5) of The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015:

The Local Highway Authority Advice is that, in its view, the impacts of the development on highway safety would not be unacceptable, and when considered cumulatively with other developments, the impacts on the road network would not be severe. Based on the information provided, the development therefore does not conflict with paragraph 111 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021).

Advice to Local Planning Authority

Background

The Local Highway Authority (LHA) have been consulted on a planning application for the installation of dropped kerbs at 7 Northfield Road, Hinckley.

Site Access / Internal Layout

The Applicant proposes to create a new vehicle access on Northfield Road which is a classified C road subject to a 30mph speed limit.

In accordance with Figure DG17 of the Leicestershire Highway Design Guide (LHDG) available at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/lhdg>, the minimum effective access width should be 2.75m.

The Applicant has not submitted any detailed scaled drawings demonstrating the vehicular visibility splays. The LHA have undertaken its own assessment and find that 2.4m x 43m is achievable to the northwest and 2.4 x 39m is achievable southeast to the junction of Westfield Road which is deemed acceptable.

It appears the dwelling is currently not afforded any off street car parking. Having scaled from the 'Block Plan' (drawing reference number TQRQM23148173547671), it would appear there is adequate width for two vehicles to park side by side. However, the Applicant has demonstrated on the Block Plan a length of 4.32m which is contrary to paragraph 3.165 of the LHDG which states that parking spaces should measure 2.4m x 5.5m, with 0.5m added if bounded by a wall, fence, hedge, line of trees or other similar obstructions on 1 side or 1m if bounded on both sides. The LHA would normally seek to resist proposals which cannot provide the requisite car parking dimensions on classified C roads. However, after investigation by the LHA it would appear the unauthorised vehicle access has been in situ for more than 10 years. Whilst the proposals are substandard and do not comply with the LHDG, given the quantum of similar off-street parking arrangements in the location, the LHA consider given these circumstances it would be difficult to resist the application. As such, it is unlikely that it would be possible to sustain a reason for refusal on highways grounds in the event of an appeal.

The LHA note that there is a street lighting column on the edge of the proposed access which may be in conflict with the proposed access. It should be noted that if the street lighting column requires relocating, it should be done at the Applicants expense.

The Applicant should be mindful that if the planning application is successful, for a vehicular access to be created within the public highway, separate approval must be obtained from the LHA. Further information can be found using the Leicestershire County Council Vehicle Access (Dropped Kerbs) Information Pack (available at <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-02/VA1-Information-Pack.pdf>).

Whilst planning permission may be granted, the application for a licence may be refused if it does not fulfil the criteria.

Highway Safety

There have been 15 recorded Personal Injury Collisions (PICs) within 500m of the site within the most recent five-year period. These are shown in the table below by year and severity:

Year	Slight	Serious	Fatal	Total
2018	1	1	0	2
2019	5	0	1	6
2020	1	1	0	2
2021	1	0	0	1
2022	2	1	0	3
2023	1	0	0	1
Total	11	3	1	15

Whilst the number of PIC's initially appears to be high, it is noted that the site lies within close proximity to the town centre where pedestrian and vehicular movements will be significant.

The LHA has given consideration to the circumstances of each of the above PIC's and is satisfied that there is no evidence to suggest that the development proposal would exacerbate the likelihood of further such incidents occurring.

Informative

- Planning Permission does not give you approval to work on the public highway. Therefore, prior to carrying out any works on the public highway you must ensure all necessary licences/permits/agreements are in place. For further information, please telephone 0116 305 0001. It is an offence under Section 148 and Section 151 of the Highways Act 1980 to deposit mud on the public highway and therefore you should take every effort to prevent this occurring.

Date Received
12 June 2023

Case Officer
Irfan Patel

Reviewer
BD

Date issued
4 June 2023