

MEMORANDUM



From: Chief Officer, Environment & Technical **To:** Chief Officer Planning & Regulatory
Our Ref: ET/DC/P/2020/0097 **Your Ref:** SEH/P/2020/0097
Date: 25th February 2020

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
TOWN AND COUNTRY (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995

Location: O. S Grid Ref: 343 532 Homestead Nursery, Old Wrexham Road, Gresford, Wrexham.

Development: Application for variation of condition no. 13 imposed under planning permission P/2019/0189 to increase registered number of children on site to 146.

I refer to your consultation / email dated 13/02/2020 in respect of the above.

Access

The proposed development site is located on Old Wrexham Road which is rural, classified road subject to a 60mph speed limit. However, I would estimate typical vehicle speeds at being around 30mph along this section given the geometry of the road.

Assuming typical speeds of 30mph, Manual for Streets would normally require any proposed / existing access to provide visibility splays of 2.4 x 43m in both directions measured to the nearside edge of the adjoining highway.

Visibility from the existing / proposed access is adequate providing splays in excess of 2.4 x 43m measured to the nearside edge of the adjoining highway in both directions. However, this is subject to the regular maintenance of the existing hedgerows.

The existing access is approximately 18m wide, reducing to 7.3m wide at 6.9m behind the adjoining carriageway. The access is gated at this point. The access is surfaced with hard bound materials. The access road serving the nursery is typically 4.7m wide beyond the gates.

I understand that the nursery is currently registered to accommodate 96 children and employs 40 no. staff (full and part-time). The applicant has indicated that they do not propose to increase staff numbers or the number of children they are registered for.

The majority of vehicles (parents / guardians) visiting the site appear to access the nursery via the A5156 Llan y Pwll Link Road to the south. The section of Old Wrexham Road between the nursery and the link road has no footway or lighting provision. There are sections of this lane where the simultaneous passage of 2 vehicles is difficult. However, there are a number of informal passing places along this section. This section of Old Wrexham Road would not benefit from any significant increase in vehicle movements.

Traffic Generation

I understand that the nursery has 52 existing staff operating staggered shift patterns so they do not all arrive and finish at the same time. I understand that all staff park within the staff car park away from the main buildings.

It is not clear from the submitted information whether there will be any additional staff employed at the site to deal with the increase in children numbers from 96 to 146 children. Any increased staff numbers will inevitably increase vehicle movements and parking demand at the site. **I would recommend that the applicant clarifies this detail.**

I understand that parents drop off and collect their children at staggered times throughout the day. I understand that the majority of children are dropped off between 8am and 9.15am, the busiest time being 8:30am

I understand that the majority of children are collected between 4pm and 6pm with 5:00 – 5:30pm being the busiest time. This period is not as busy as the morning as it is longer and more staggered. I understand that no incidents / accidents have been reported and parents are happy with the drop off / collection arrangements parking in the main car park and walking up to the nursery buildings.

Parking & Turning Provision

The existing site appears to have a drop off and turning point by the main building and a staff car park just inside the main entrance. As part of a previous planning consent (ref: P/2019/0189) at the site, the staff / parent car park was increased in size from a capacity of 18 to 28 spaces.

Since this time, the car park appears to have been increased in size. It would now appear capable of accommodating around 50 cars. However, when parents arrive, they appear to park randomly within the car. To improve parking arrangements at the site, I would recommend that the car park is surfaced with hard bound materials eg/ bituminous macadam, with spaces being marked with white lining material in accordance with LPGN16 requirements. The existing car park is surfaced with granular sub-base material and appears to flood at the bottom of the site.

I visited the site on 24/02/2020 between 07:55 – 08:45. Occupancy of the car park ranged between 21 no cars (at 7:55am) to 43 cars (at 8:09am). Between 8:00am and 8:27am there was always at least 25 vehicles upwards parked in the car park.

I assume that the 20 cars parked around the perimeter of the car park were staff vehicles (as suggested by the submitted Traffic Statement). I assume that staff numbers will need to increase if the number of registered children / application is supported. **I would recommend that the applicant clarifies this detail.** It is inevitable the proposed development will result in increased numbers of parents dropping off their children requiring parking. On a pro-rata basis this would suggest that parent parking has the potential to increase from 23 spaces to around 35 spaces not including the 20 or more spaces required for staff parking which may also increase.

It would therefore appear that the existing car park may well be of insufficient size to accommodate the proposed development.

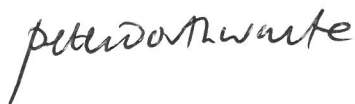
I would recommend that the applicant considers the issues raised above and provides further details in respect of the likely maximum number of vehicles requiring parking at any one time at the site. Details of any additional need for staff and proposed increase in staff numbers will need to be provided.

I would recommend the applicant provides a suitably scaled plan indicating any proposed improvements to the car park both in terms of capacity (number of spaces), details of hard bound surfacing spaces marked out with white lining materials in accordance with LPGN 16.

I await the requested information

Supplementary Notes

The applicant's attention should be drawn to item nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 of the supplementary notes.

 Chief Officer, Environment & Technical