

MEMORANDUM

From: Chief Officer Environment & Technical **To:** Chief Officer Planning & Regulatory
Our Ref: ET/DC/P/2020/0053 **Your Ref:** MP/P/2020/0053
Date: 4th February 2020

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

Location: O. S Grid Ref: 452 385 Merehead Dairy Unit, Big Arowry, Bettisfield, Wrexham.
Development: Construction of new milking parlour and handling area and all associated works.

I refer to your consultation / email dated 04/02/2020 in respect of the above.

Access

The proposed development site is accessed off a classified, rural lane subject to a 60mph speed limit. However, a recently conducted speed survey determined 85th percentile values of 41.0mph for vehicles travelling southbound and 42.1mph for vehicles travelling northbound.

Based on the above speeds, any proposed / existing access in this location would normally be required to provide visibility splays of 2.4 x 107m in the northerly direction and 2.4 x 112m in the southerly direction measured to the nearside edge of the adjoining highway.

Visibility from the existing access is severely sub-standard providing splays of approximately 2.4 x 19m in the northerly direction and 2.4 x 24m in the southerly direction measured to the nearside edge of the adjoining highway. Visibility is impeded in both directions by the existing hedgerows.

I would therefore not normally be able to support any proposed development that is likely to result in any significant increase in vehicle movements given the lack of adequate visibility.

However, I understand that the hedgerows / land either side of the access are within the control of the applicant. As part of planning application ref: P/2019/0676, the applicant was willing to carry out improvements along the frontage to provide the required visibility splays. I assume that this could include setting back sections of the existing hedgerow behind the visibility splays and providing a grassed verge between the hedge and the carriageway edge.

The previously submitted Highway Statement included a plan indicating improved splays of 2.4 x 120m in both directions measured to the nearside edge of the adjoining highway which was considered acceptable.

The access onto the classified road is approximately 25m wide reducing to 4.8m at 8.7m behind the edge of carriageway. I assume the largest size of vehicle visiting the site would be a milk tanker (typically around 14.5m in length). Based on such a vehicle, I would normally recommend any proposed access is a minimum 5.5m wide for a minimum distance of 20m behind the adjoining carriageway incorporating appropriate kerb radii (based on swept paths).

The applicant had previously offered to widen the existing access (plan included in previously submitted Highway Statement) which provides an access width in excess of 5.5m for at least 20m behind the adjoining highway which is considered acceptable. Submitted swept path details indicate an articulated tanker (assumed length 14.5m) passing a 4 x 4 road vehicle accessing the site. This offers a significant improvement on the existing access arrangement.

However, the current application does not appear to include the previously submitted Highway Statement demonstrating these improvements. **Could you please ask the applicant to clarify this matter.**

The private road serving the development site is typically less than 4.1m beyond the main access point with limited passing places and cannot adequately accommodate the simultaneous passage of two vehicles. The applicant has indicated that there are a number of locations along this track where minimal improvements / widening could facilitate the simultaneous passage of vehicles. I would recommend that a scheme for a couple of suitable passing places is submitted if the application is supported.

Traffic Generation

The Design & Access Statement states that the proposed development will increase vehicle movements at the site. I understand that the additional movements likely to be generated by the development include milk tankers, feed lorries, staff vehicles (2 – 3 staff), vet visits, commercial vehicle and other deliveries

Parking & Turning Provision

Parking & turning provision at the site appears adequate.

I await the requested details.

Supplementary Notes

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

Note to Applicant:

Public Footpath No.5 - Hanmer provides access in close proximity to the development site and should not be interfered with. I would strongly recommend that the applicant liaises with our Public Rights of Way Section to discuss the proposed development. Please contact Mr. Sean Hanratty on Tel: 01978 729761.

Peter Outhwaite

Chief Officer Environment & Technical

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