

Application No: 12/1627M  
Location: LAND ADJACENT TO COPPICE WAY, HANDFORTH  
Proposal: Outline Application for New Vehicular Access with Means of Access, Layout and Associated Engineering Works for Consideration (with Landscaping Reserved for Subsequent Approval)  
Applicant: Mr Pasquale Nicosia, GREYSTONE (UK) LTD  
Expiry Date: 29-Jun-2012

**Date Report Prepared:** 6 August 2012

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

Approve subject to conditions

**MAIN ISSUES**

- Justification for the development
- Highway safety
- Landscape impact.

**REASON FOR REPORT**

The application is closely linked to application 12/1578M, which also appears on the agenda.

**DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND CONTEXT**

The application site comprises a wooded embankment adjacent to Coppice Way. The site is located within an area of Proposed Open Space as identified in the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan.

**DETAILS OF PROPOSAL**

This proposal seeks outline planning permission to provide an access from Coppice Way to the proposed Care Village. The development would involve cutting through the wooded embankment that forms the northern boundary of the proposed care village site. Approval of

access, appearance, layout and scale is sought at this stage, with only landscaping reserved for subsequent approval.

The relevant issues and policy relating to the overall care village development are discussed in the parallel report on the agenda for application 12/1578M. They will not be repeated here. The key site planning issues concerning the proposed access road are considered to be those of landscaping, trees and highway safety.

## **RELEVANT HISTORY**

09/0695M – Development of a care village (sui-generis use) comprising 58-bedroom care home, 47 close care cottages, 15 shared ownership affordable dwellings, and associated access roads, public open space, landscaping, car parking and ancillary development – Refused 19.08.2009 – Appeal dismissed 28.10.2010 (The Inspector concluded that the assessment of need was not robust enough to justify a departure from policy GC7).

09/0708M – Formation of new vehicular access from Coppice Way and engineering works – Refused 19.08.2009 – Appeal dismissed 28.10.2010 (The Inspector concluded that as there was no proven need for the care village, there was no justification for an access, which would be contrary to policy RT6).

09/3023M – Outline application with means of access, layout, scale and appearance for consideration and landscaping reserved for subsequent approval for the development of a care village comprising 55-bedroom care home, 36 close care cottages, 6 shared ownership affordable dwellings – all for the over 55s, and associated access roads, public open space, landscaping, car parking and ancillary development – Refused 20.01.2010 – Appeal dismissed 28.10.2010 (The Inspector concluded that the assessment of need was not robust enough to justify a departure from policy GC7)

09/3050M - Formation of new vehicular access from Coppice Way and engineering works – Refused 20.01.2010 – Appeal dismissed 28.10.2010 (The Inspector concluded that as there was no proven need for the care village, there was no justification for an access, which would be contrary to policy RT6).

## **POLICIES**

### **Regional Spatial Strategy**

Relevant policies of the RSS include: DP1 Spatial Principles; DP2 Promote Sustainable Communities; DP3 Promote Sustainable Economic Development; DP4 make the Best Use of Existing Resources and Infrastructure; DP5 Manage Travel Demand - Reduce the Need to Travel, and Increase Accessibility; DP7 Promote Environmental Quality; DP9 Reduce Emissions and Adapt to Climate Change; RT2 Managing Travel Demand; RT9 Walking and Cycling; EM1 Integrated Enhancement and Protection of the Region's Environmental Assets.

### **Local Plan Policy**

Relevant policies of the Local Plan include: BE1 Design Guidance; RT1, RT2 and RT6 Open Space; DC1 Design; DC3 Residential Amenity; DC6 Circulation and Access; DC8 Landscaping; DC9 Tree Protection; GC7 Safeguarded Land

## **Other Material Considerations**

National Planning Policy Framework (The Framework)

### **CONSULTATIONS (External to Planning)**

Strategic Highways Manager – The access to the cottages and the care home is to be taken off a spine road that possibly could lead to further development in the future. This spine road links to an existing roundabout on Coppice Way. Therefore, as there have been no material changes in circumstances on the highway network, (since the previous appeal) no highway objections are raised.

### **VIEWS OF THE PARISH / TOWN COUNCIL**

Handforth Parish Council - The Council have noted the marked opposition of local residents to the proposed care village and access road. The Parish Council are broadly in sympathy with the views of local residents but, at a recent council meeting, it was agreed that councillors would send their comments on the application on an individual basis.

### **OTHER REPRESENTATIONS**

45 letters of representation have been received, which mainly refer to general objections to the entire care village development. However specific objections relating to the proposed access road include:

- Elderly drivers would have to negotiate the hazardous A34 roundabout.
- The roundabouts and roads around the Handforth Dean shopping centre are hazardous for the elderly and infirm.
- Increased noise and fumes, headlight beams will penetrate from Wilmslow Way
- The bund was deliberately built, where it runs east to west, to counteract this pollution and there can be no valid reason to penetrate it.
- The road access breaches RT6 land
- The exit from the A34 for the retail park is already busy and complex. This adds to the complexity.
- No justification for the development
- Increased congestion
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Future development of safeguarded land will follow.

### **APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The applicant has submitted a transport statement, planning statement, design and access statement and a tree survey with the application.

### **OFFICER APPRAISAL**

#### **Principle of Development**

The site is designated within the Local Plan as Open Space and adjoins an area of Safeguarded Land. Policy GC7 notes that if the safeguarded land is to be developed in the future, access will be taken from Coppice Way. Therefore, subject to an acceptable

development scheme on the safeguarded land to the South, the principle of an access from Coppice Way is established in Development Plan policy.

The issues in principle, regarding the loss of open space and other matters, are discussed in the associated report for the care village. If Members resolve to approve the proposed care village then there is no objection in principle to the proposed access. Indeed the access point proposed would be the most preferable to the site. However, if Members resolve to refuse the care village application then clearly there would be no justification for this development, and it would be contrary to policy RT6 as it would result in the loss of land allocated for open space.

### **Highways**

As noted above, there is provision within the local plan for an access to serve development on the safeguarded land. The Strategic Highways Manager has commented on the proposal and noted that on the previous application there were no highway objections raised to the development and in considering this particular application they have considered whether there have been any material changes on the road network since the previous application. Although there has some changes to the nearby retail park there have not been any large developments that would affect the traffic impact considerations of this proposal.

The Highways Agency has previously confirmed that the development will have a negligible impact on the trunk road network. The Inspector for the appeals in 2010 also did not identify any significant highway safety concerns. No significant highway safety concerns are therefore raised.

### **Landscaping**

Since the previous appeals, there has been a minor change to the route of the access off Coppice Way into the site which now shows a slight curve and inclusion of an attenuation pond. These minor changes will not impact significantly on the extent of tree losses along the existing mound that abuts Coppice Way.

Some clarification would be necessary as to the extent of re-grading required for the new embankment detailing to ensure the minimum construction works necessary to achieve the access without compromising trees unnecessarily. If the application is approved a detailed landscape scheme should be submitted as a reserved matters application. The details must include proposed levels and contours, soiling and seeding, and vegetation to be removed, plus replanting.

The proposed cut-through is located towards the eastern end of the site (of the proposed care village) this is well away from the residential areas near Hall Road and as such there is not considered to be an issue in terms of impact on residential amenity resulting from a break in the existing landscape screen.

### **CONCLUSIONS AND REASON(S) FOR THE DECISION**

The development of safeguarded land would require an access to be created from Coppice Way. Subject to approval of the associated care village development there is no objection in principle to this proposal. Landscaping will be dealt with as a reserved matter and will ensure

the visual impact is minimised and the proposal will be acceptable in terms of highway safety. The application is therefore recommended for approval subject to conditions.

#### Application for Outline Planning

RECOMMENDATION: Approve subject to following conditions

1. A07OP - Time limit on outline permission
2. A03OP - Time limit for submission of reserved matters
3. A01OP - Submission of reserved matters
4. A01AP - Development in accord with approved plans
5. No development until a contract and phasing agreement in place for development of care village



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