

Application No: 17/0891M

Location: Roundabout: A537 / Cumberland St / Oxford Rd., CUMBERLAND STREET ROUNDABOUT, MACCLESFIELD

Proposal: Erection of 5 sponsorship signs on the roundabout. One facing each entry point onto the roundabout

Applicant: Richard Bramhall, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd

Expiry Date: 30-Oct-2017

### **SUMMARY**

The site is located on the Cumberland Street Roundabout, the junction of Cumberland Street, A537 (Chester Road), West Road and Oxford Road. To the north and south west are predominantly residential areas. Directly to the south is a mixed use area with a Grade II listed Mill set back from the highway by its walled yard area. Immediately to the north is Regency (The Spire) Hospital, a private medical facility. Saved policy DC51 of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan, and paragraph 67 of the NPPF set out the circumstances where signage can be acceptable.

The application raises no significant issues relating to the visual amenity of the immediate neighbourhood including the setting of the listed building, or public safety. Accordingly the application is recommended for approval.

### **SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

Approve subject to conditions.

### **REASON FOR REPORT**

This application has been referred to the Northern Planning Committee by the Head of Planning (Regulation). The application is one of a number of proposals for signage on roundabouts across the Borough submitted by ANSA.

### **PROPOSAL**

The proposal is for advertisement consent to display non-illuminated sponsorship signs on the roundabout. The specific details of the proposals are as follows:

5no. signs are proposed which will measure 0.6m in width by 0.45m in height at a pole height of 0.3m.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The roundabout in question is a large, raised, grass roundabout with feature, manicured soft planting in the centre serving Cumberland Street, A537 (Chester Road), West Road and Oxford Road. This roundabout serves the predominantly residential areas to the east, north west and south west, a mixed use area to the south east containing Regency Mill, Grade II listed and immediately to the north Regency (The Spire) Hospital, a private medical facility. It is a busy roundabout and is an arterial junction for those travelling into the Town Centre from the east and south.

## **RELEVANT SITE HISTORY**

None.

## **LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLICY**

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

Paragraph 67 – Advertisements

### **Planning Practice Guidance- section 18b**

Extract from PPG section 18b:

*Advertisements are controlled with reference to their effect on amenity and public safety only, so the regime is lighter touch than the system for obtaining planning permission for development.*

### **Cheshire East Local Plan**

SE7 The Historic Environment

### **Macclesfield Borough Local Plan**

DC51 (Advertisements)

## **CONSULTATIONS**

Macclesfield Town Council – objected to proposals on the grounds of highways distraction and its impact on road safety.

Highways – No objection.

## **REPRESENTATIONS**

None received

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The applicant has submitted the following information:

The proposal is to deliver a trial, for Cheshire East Council, of advertising sponsorship on 20 roundabouts across Cheshire East.

The application is for a five year period. The trial will initially be for 1 year with a review towards the end of the year as to whether the council wishes to continue the sponsorship scheme.

Advertisers will be approved by ANSA prior to allowing them to sponsor a roundabout to ensure that only appropriate messages will be allowed onto a roundabout.

Cheshire East Highways will deliver the safety audit both prior to and after installation to ensure signs are placed at the right point and height on the roundabout.

The signs will be at a height to conform to Highway Regulations. This is to ensure that road users can see under or over the sign at roundabouts whilst at the same time ensuring that grass / foliage can be maintained.

The important thing about the signs is that road users should have an unobstructed view over or under them wherever they are sited and the highways safety audit will deliver this.

## **APPRAISAL**

The National Planning Policy Framework states that advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety.

Para 67 of The Framework relates to advertisements and states that:

*'Poorly placed advertisements can have a negative impact on the appearance of the built and natural environment. Control over outdoor advertisements should be efficient, effective and simple in concept and operation. Only those advertisements which will clearly have an appreciable impact on a building or on their surroundings should be subject to the local planning authority's detailed assessment. Advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts.'*

This indicates that the main issues are amenity and public safety.

### **Amenity**

The 5no. signs will be positioned on the entry point to the roundabout from each of the aforesaid roads. The signs would all be positioned on the existing grass roundabout and would be non-illuminated. Policy DC51 states that the visual amenity of the immediate area and public safety should not be materially harmed by virtue of the proposed advertisement. The signage will be positioned adjacent to the existing highways directional signage. A condition addressing concerns regarding visual clutter forming a highways distraction where existing advertisements/ boards have been erected on the roundabouts will be added to any planning approval. Noting the size of the roundabout and the scale of the signage proposed, there would be no adverse impact on the visual amenity of the surrounding area. It is considered there would be a no significant impact on the setting of the Grade II listed Regency Mill which is set back from the site to the south by its existing boundary treatments and yard area.

### **Public Safety**

An objection has been received from Macclesfield Town Council stating that the proposed signage will provide be a Highways distraction and would impact road safety. The Strategic Highways Manager raises no objections to the proposals. The proposed size and location of the signage on the roundabout is acceptable and does not interfere with visibility, therefore no concerns have been raised regarding highway safety.

The proposal is therefore considered to be in compliance with policy DC51 of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan.

## **CONCLUSION**

All objections and comments received have been noted and considered during the assessment of this application. The proposed advertisements are considered to be acceptable and would not have any detrimental impact on the visual amenity of the area or harm public safety.

The proposed development is therefore considered to be in compliance with Saved Policy DC51 of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan and SE7 of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy. The application is therefore recommended for approval subject to conditions.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **Approve subject to the following conditions:**

1. Development in accord with approved plans
2. All advertisements displayed, and any site used for the display of advertisements, shall be maintained in a condition that does not impair the visual amenity of the site.
3. Any structure or hoarding erected or used principally for the purpose of displaying advertisements shall be maintained in a condition that does not impair the visual amenity of the site.
4. Where an advertisement is required under these Regulations to be removed, the site shall be left in a condition that does not endanger the public or impair visual amenity.
5. No advertisement is to be displayed without the permission of the owner of the site or any other person with an interest in the site entitled to grant permission.
6. No advertisement shall be sited or displayed so as to endanger, obscure or hinder any highway, railway, waterway or aerodrome operation.
7. This consent hereby grants permission for the display of the advertisement(s) referred to in this notice for a period of five years from the date of this consent. In the event of the 1 year trial period expiring or the advertisement scheme or contract ending, all signs shall be removed within 3 a three month period.
8. Removal of advertisements currently displayed
9. The proposed signage approved by virtue of this consent will be non-reflective and not illuminated, and shall remain as such unless otherwise approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

*In the event of any changes being needed to the wording of the Committee's decision (such as to debate, vary or add conditions / informatives / planning obligations or reasons for approval/refusal) prior to the decision being issued, the Head of Planning Regulation has delegated authority to do so in consultation with the Chairman of the Northern Planning Committee, provided that the changes do not exceed the substantive nature of the Committee's decision.*

