

Application No: 17/0839M

Location: Land At, HARDEN PARK ROUNDABOUT, ALDERLEY EDGE

Proposal: Erection of 4 sponsorship signs on the roundabout. One facing each entry point onto the roundabout.

Applicant: Mr Richard Bramhall, Ansa Environmental Services Ltd

Expiry Date: 30-Oct-2017

SUMMARY

The site is located on the A34 within the Green Belt to the north of Alderley Edge. 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 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:

4 signs are proposed which will measure 1m in width by 0.45m in height at a pole height of 0.5m.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The roundabout in question is a large, grass and tree covered roundabout on the A34 north of Alderley Edge, where the A34 becomes a dual carriageway. The roundabout provides access to both the south of Wilmslow and the north of Alderley Edge.

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.

Macclesfield Borough Local Plan

DC51 (Advertisements)

Cheshire East Local Plan

No relevant policies.

Alderley Edge Neighbourhood Plan

The area has been designated within the Neighbourhood Plan area, however a draft plan is not yet available.

CONSULTATIONS

Highways – No objection.

Alderley Edge Parish Council - No objection to this application subject to the following two conditions:

- CEC should consult with the Parish Council on who the sponsors are
- A proportion of the sponsorship raised is spent on Alderley Edge projects

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 signs will be positioned on a very busy stretch of road where the A34 becomes a dual carriageway. 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 chevron signage. A condition will address a concern regarding visual clutter where existing advertisements/boards have been erected on the roundabouts. Whilst it is understood that the roundabout is positioned within the Green Belt it is considered given 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.

Public Safety

The Strategic Highways Manager raises no objections to the proposal in terms of public safety and the safe use of the highway. The proposed size and location of the signage on the roundabout is acceptable as they do 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.

Other Matters

Comments received from Alderley Edge Parish Council have raised no objection, however conditions have been suggested. The Parish Council wishes to be consulted on who the sponsors of the roundabout are, and would also like a proportion of the sponsorship raised to be spent on projects in Alderley Edge. As these are not material planning considerations, it would be considered unreasonable to place conditions on the decision to this effect.

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, nor would it harm public safety

The proposed development is therefore considered to be in compliance with Saved Policy DC51 of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan. 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.

