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Date 20 September 2022

My reference 047179

Your reference APP/22/00576

Email havantdc@hants.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

The South Downs College, College Road, Purbrook, Waterlooville, PO7 8AA

Construction of a new college car park

Thank you for your consultation on the above planning application. To support this application, the applicant has submitted a 'Travel to Learn Strategy' which the Highway Authority have reviewed and have the following comments to make. It is important to note that concerns in parking numbers are related to student parking numbers and not available parking for staff.

The Highway Authority are in consultation with the Local Planning Authority regarding the extant planning permission for the college site and whether on-site parking was a requirement of this planning consent.

Travel to Learn Strategy (TLS)

Local Authority Car Parking Standards:

It is acknowledged there is not a requirement to provide student parking in accordance with Havant Borough Council's Supplementary Parking Document, however, the applicant will be required to provide an appropriate plan to manage the onsite changes and to mitigate against on carriageway parking considering the reduced parking for students. This is further explored throughout the response.

Car Parking Demand Appraisal:

The Highway Authority note that a car parking count on the existing layout has been

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undertaken by the college suggesting that there are 90 spare car parking spaces across the site based on current demand. It is not clear when this has been undertaken and this should be provided to ensure this is a representative count of the parking situation during peak demand.

With the addition of car park 6 and the reconfiguration of car park 5, a total of 455 car parking spaces will be available on site. Clarity is requested on the numbers allocated for staff and those remaining to be allocated as permit parking for students.

Staff and Student Survey:

It is noted within the TLS that 75% of students would still be willing to drive to college if payment was required for parking and 52% of students noted that a lack of available parking would not deter them from attending the college. It is assumed from this that 75% of students would only pay to park on site and 52% of students would not drive to college should there not be enough parking. The Highway Authority are considered that this is not the case, and this response may have been given with the intention of parking on nearby residential street. As mentioned within this response, more thought would be required as to how impacts of parking on carriageway in residential roads, particularly Apollo Drive is to be mitigated.

The TLS is currently misleading suggesting that introducing a permit restriction would encourage students to take up sustainable travel modes. This is not thought to be the case as students are likely to park on carriageway in the adjacent residential streets surrounding the college campus, particularly Apollo Drive. Whilst the Highway Authority generally support the vision to reduce the parking at South Downs College and providing a greater emphasis on sustainable travel modes to the site, further measures will be needed to discourage parking on the Highway to the detriment of Highway Safety.

Clarification is requested as to under what existing circumstances the survey was undertaken. It is anticipated that condensing college days into a 3-day week is likely to increase the number of students at the college at one time, thus putting pressure on the parking situation. The Highway Authority seek clarification on the current and future model student numbers on site in any given day.

Reduce the Need for Travel:

It has not yet been demonstrated that the proposed 3-day week can be accommodated by a reduction in parking. As noted above, it is thought that a transition to the 3-day week from the traditional 5-day week will place additional demands on the parking situation with students condensed down into these 3-days. Whilst it reduces the need for travel across the week, it could see an increase in the number of students within a given day across the whole day. A greater understanding of student demand across the week as is currently and in the future is needed.

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Student Permit Parking:

The TLS outlines colleges within Hampshire and their parking policies for students. Whilst it is accepted that South Downs College is the only college to provide free parking for students, an understanding of how the transition is proposed from providing the parking to a permit only scheme is required this should include how students are to be notified of this change to consider alternative modes of transport to college and measures to encourage sustainable travel uptake by existing and new students.

Further consideration should be given towards the allocation of parking permits. It is not clear which criteria the 20-minute acceptable walking time to the campus has been based on. CIHT's 'Providing for Journeys on Foot' guidance should be used to assess the appropriate walking distance to the college. Additionally, clarity is requested as to where the acceptable '40-minute journey distance' has been derived from. Does this consider just consider the typical bus journey time? Or does this also include waiting for the bus and also the potential of being turned away from a full bus during peak times? Does the 10-minute walking distance include walking both ways? Or just the walk from the nearest bus stop to the college?

A travel heat map has been provided showing where students commute to college from. The Highway Authority will require the typical number of students travelling from each location highlighted on the heatmap that would qualify for a permit as well as the number of permit spaces available to understand if there are enough spaces for the demand. This will also determine what additional bus services may be required depending on where students travel from to provide a contingency for students to travel to college if they are unsuccessful in obtaining a permit.

In order to prevent any nuisance parking on nearby residential roads if students are unable to obtain a permit, the applicant will be required to provide a financial contribution towards a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

In addition to further information requested above, the Highway Authority would request a Travel Plan to be submitted in support of this application and the change in operation for the site.

Proposed Car Parking Layout

Drawing 2202-HOST-ZZ-00-DR-A-1110 Rev 4 show the proposed car parking layout for the site. The car parking layout is currently unclear and further consideration is required before it would be deemed suitable.

The Highway Authority will require the following information regarding the parking layout:

- Aisle widths of car park 6;

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- Car parking space dimensions which should be in accordance with Havant Borough Council's Parking Supplementary Planning Document;
- Tracking for two standard size cars passing each other on the access to car park 6; and
- Visibility splays at the car park 6 access

The alignment of the access to car park 6 looks potentially problematic with regards forward visibility and available width and a more traditional access form and alignment to this area should be considered; and

There are concerns that as the layout currently stands some motorcycle spaces may be impossible to access if a car is overhanging the allocated parking space. The applicant should explore the scope to split up the motorcycle spaces into the more traditional arrangement as shown for car parks 1-4 within the college car park.

Having regard to the above the Highway Authority require the further information requested before a formal recommendation can be made.

Yours faithfully,

Sophie Osborne
Transport Planner – Highways Development Planning

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