

# REPRESENTATIONS OF HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (HCC) HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

## IN RELATION TO; Access routing constraints to site Weg12

29<sup>th</sup> March 2021, prepared by Anthony Collier

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HCC Highway Authority Comments regarding;

### **Access routing constraints to site Weg12 – Carriageway width**

Concern was raised during the Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan examination of site Weg12 relating to the widths of routes likely to be used to access the site. More detailed work has been undertaken to fully understand if this issue would delay or constrain a site in this location coming forward. Following that work, it is clear there are not unmitigatable issues with this route access, notably due to the wider public highway land available should widening of the carriageway be required.

The site is likely to have a principle vehicle access utilising the existing Parsonage Lane. This would require a carriageway width of 5.5 meters as set out in HCCs design guide 'Roads in Herts' for a development of 100 houses or more (including the existing dwellings in this situation). Parsonage Lane is below 5.5 meters in widths in places, however there is significant space in the existing highway land currently formed of grassed verges. Work has been undertaken by the promoter to assess the widths of Parsonage Lane, upon review of this work it is the view of HCC that there are no ownership/control concerns with delivery of a widened carriageway.

Whilst a 5.5-meter carriageway is the current design standard, the design speed would be 30mph for a such a road, whereas its currently 20mph, and widening the road could increase speeds.

Deciding on the best highway layout is a matter for later stages of planning, noting we are confident that should a 5.5-meter width carriageway be required, it is deliverable within the existing highway boundary without causing a negative impact to pedestrian facilities.

### **Summary**

If at later planning stages widening is viewed as necessary, there is room within the highway boundary to achieve 5.5m. Widening on this scale wouldn't present a viability issue and would be of the scale of highway improvements often required for a development of this size, and that has been agreed by the site promoter

For the purposes of the Local Plan promotion/allocation, there are no showstoppers that would prevent an allocation being made in highways terms

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