

APPEAL REF: APP/C1950/W/23/3323564

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Proposals at land to the rear of 19 The Avenue, Welwyn, AL6 0PW

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

To be held at 10.00 hrs on Wednesday, 20 September 2023

INSPECTOR'S PRE-CONFERENCE NOTE

1. The case management conference (CMC) will be held by Inspector Mr Matthew Nunn and he will be determining the appeal. Attached as a separate document is the conference agenda.
2. As the parties will be aware, there will be no discussion about the merits of the appeal case at the CMC and the Inspector will not hear any evidence. The main purpose is to consider the arrangements for the Inquiry.
3. It will be helpful for the purposes of the CMC if a spokesperson could be appointed for each main party, although this will not prevent contributions from others. It would be most helpful if an up-to-date list of proposed attendees for each party could be supplied to the Case Officer in advance of the CMC.
4. The Inquiry is due to open on 28 November 2023 and programmed to sit for 4 days. If the parties consider that more or less time will be needed they should be prepared to explain their reasons.
5. The Inspector will need to know who will be representing each main party and what witnesses will be called.
6. Regarding the main issues for discussion at the Inquiry, these will be primarily (though not necessarily exclusively) based on the Council's decision notice providing reasons for refusal.
7. There will be a discussion at the CMC about how all the matters can best be dealt with and the order of evidence ('case by case' or 'topic' basis). Formal presentation of evidence with cross-examination may not always necessarily be the most appropriate means of considering some areas of evidence. There will be discussion about the extent to which 'round table' sessions and 'question and answer' sessions on discrete topics can be usefully employed.
8. The Inspector will wish to consider any third party involvement and the number of local people who are likely to wish to speak at the inquiry. It is clearly important that interested persons can participate if they wish to do so. How this will be achieved will be discussed at the CMC.

9. The Inspector will require hard copies of the main documents, including the proofs of evidence. These documents will also need to be available digitally along with the other inquiry documents (including Core Documents). Late documentation is strongly discouraged, but the arrangements for managing this if it is necessary will be discussed.
10. You are requested to give the above matters careful consideration in advance of the CMC.

Matthew Nunn

INSPECTOR

19 September 2023