

SANDBACH TOWN COUNCIL

Planning Committee

Supplementary Planning Application List to be considered at the meeting to be held on Monday, 8 March 2021 at 7.00pm on Zoom (Zoom code on main agenda)

1. OBSERVATIONS ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Submitted WE 05.03.21 response to Cheshire East by 31.03.21

21/0900C 299 Crewe Road, Sandbach, CW11 4PZ

Proposed two storey side extension with rear dormer windows single storey front porch extension and second storey rear extension.

2. CONSULTATIONS

2.1 Air Quality Action Plan Consultation

[Attached: Draft consultation response from Cllr Hovey]

Details of the consultation can be found online at:

https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/environmental_health/local_air_quality/local_air_quality.aspx . The closing date for the application is 12th March 2021.

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STC Response for Air Quality Action Plan

Background.

The CEC consultation document states “This Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) has been produced as part of our statutory duties required by the Local Air Quality Management framework. It outlines the actions we will take to improve air quality in Cheshire East between 2020 and 2025. This Action Plan replaces the previous Action Plan, which covered the period 2018 to 2023. A new updated Plan is required, due to the declaration of two new Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) and the revocation of seven existing AQMAs. This AQAP highlights existing measures and new initiatives. These measures fall into two categories:

- General action measures which aim at addressing air quality across the entire Borough
- AQMA site specific measures to help tackle poor air quality in our AQMAs”

The action plan states that the dominant source of air pollution is from road traffic be this Nitrous Oxides or Particulate Matter. Sandbach has in the past suffered from inaccurate measurements and reporting of air quality so residents are very sensitive to the issue of air quality. The removal of the AQMA for Middlewich Road/Ashfields requires reassurance that CEC will continue to monitor pollution levels given that many suspect that COVID related reduction in travel may have affected the measurements.

There are 22 actions that cover the whole of CE - some will help Sandbach others such as introducing weight limits in AQMA's will not since there appear to be no short term alternative routes for heavy vehicles around the Sandbach areas with a record of poor air quality.

Proposed response to CEC

STC considers that there are three key areas within Sandbach that require monitoring and mitigation implemented.

1) Middlewich ByPass - no traffic modelling work appear to have been undertaken, STC are very concerned that once the bypass opens traffic volumes will be increased through Sandbach via the Middlewich Road travelling to the industrial areas of Middlewich. This is likely to impact the town centre around the Ashfields/Middlewich Road junction where the AQMA has been revoked, together with Hind Heath Road and Old Mill Road leading to J17 of the M6.

2) Brickhouse Farm junction

SAND1/2020 Explore the potential of redesigning the A52022/A534 junction in Sandbach Traffic Management CE Highways LTP Junction reviewed and any improvements implemented, new measure 2021-2022 for review, implementation of any suitable measures as appropriate. STC has seen the recent proposals within the latest Capricorn planning application and were most concerned at the impractical design proposed for this junction – putting pedestrians and cyclists at high risk of injury, and requiring much traffic to double back on itself around a new roundabout that was highly likely to damage Grade II list buildings at the junction.

3) Middlewich Road/Ashfields

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SAND1 Traffic Management Review flows and priorities at Ashfield Way, Sandbach Completed: Modelling work has been undertaken and the outcome will be implemented by CE Highways in early 2021. STC is yet to see the outcome of this review.

MIDD1 & SAND2 Freight and Delivery Management Vehicle weight restriction No alternative routes currently available. This was a scheme to divert HGV's away from the AQMA – nothing has been done, STC must ensure that pollution levels continue to be monitored at this key congestion point within the town centre.

Conclusion

STC acknowledge that CEC air quality monitoring is now more open and transparent. But residents need to be reassured that our air quality around the congested roads of Sandbach are appropriately monitored and air quality improvements designed and implemented. The as yet unassessed impact of both the major road schemes in Middlewich and Congleton need to be monitored and mitigation measures implemented.

RGH March 2021.