WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

TO:	Horsham District Council FAO: Halima Chowdhury
FROM:	Highways, WSCC
DATE:	03/12/2024
LOCATION:	1 Oakfield Road, Cowfold, RH13 8AB
SUBJECT:	DC/24/1706 Creation of dropped kerb and driveway to front.
DATE OF SITE VISIT:	N/A
RECOMMENDATION:	Advice
S106 CONTRIBUTION TOTAL:	£N/A

This application has been dealt with in accordance with the Development Control Scheme protocol for small scale proposals.

This application seeks the creation of a dropped kerb and driveway. The proposed access point will be located on Bolney Road, an A-classified road subject to a speed restriction of 30 mph.

From a strictly planning perspective, the proposed access affords suitable vehicular visibility in both directions. The proposed driveway appears of suitable size to accommodate one off-street car parking space.

The applicant is advised that in addition to obtaining planning permission that they must also obtain formal approval from the highway authority to carry out the site access works on the public highway. The proposed access works will be subject to a Vehicle Crossover (VCO) licence obtained through the local WSCC Highway Area Office and constructed to a specification agreed with the local WSCC Highway Area Engineer.

Given the close proximity of the proposed access point to an existing pedestrian island crossing, I have consulted the Highway Area Office for Horsham District, to ascertain whether this would constitute a reason for refusing a licence for the proposed works. The Highway Area Office have confirmed that they would refuse a licence for the proposed access works, citing the proximity to the pedestrian island crossing as a reason.

So to summarise, whilst from a planning perspective no objections would be raised at this stage, the proposed access works are not supported by the WSCC Highway Area Office, therefore would be unlikely to be granted a licence for the access works and such, would not be implementable. I attach our normal VCO informative below:

Vehicle Crossover – Minor Highway Works
The applicant is advised that in addition to obtaining planning permission that they must also obtain formal approval from the highway authority to carry out the site access works on the public highway. The granting of planning permission does not guarantee that a vehicle crossover licence shall be granted because the highway license process considers wider factors than are considered by the Highway Authority at planning stage.

Additional information about the licence application process can be found at the following web page:
http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/highway-licences/dropped-kerbs-or-vehicle-crossovers-for-driveways-licence/

Kyran Schneider
West Sussex County Council – Planning Services