West Sussex County Council - Planning Consultation Response

To: Horsham District Council

Date: 16 November 2026

FAO: Bethan Tinning

From: WSCC - Highways Authority

LPA Reference: DC/26/1598

Location: Land Between South Lodge and Minster House, Littleworth Lane, Partridge Green

Proposal: Erection of 1 no. dwelling, landscaping, car parking (including garage) and associated works.

Date of Site Visit: N/A

Recommendation: More Information

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

Summary
WSCC in its role as Local Highway Authority (LHA) has been consulted on highway matters by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) for the proposed erection of a dwelling, landscaping, car parking with garage and associated works. The site is located on Littleworth Lane, a C-classified road subject to a speed limit of 40 mph in this location. Following a review of the submitted plans and application documents, the LHA request more information from the applicant, subject to the below comments.

Access and Visibility
A new vehicular access is proposed from Littleworth Lane to serve the development. As Littleworth Lane is subject to a 40mph speed limit, the LHA would expect visibility splays of 2.4m x 120m to be demonstrated in both directions from the proposed access, in accordance with the requirements of Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) CD 109. Visibility splays should also be measured and plotted to the nearside edge of the carriageway in both directions.

Having reviewed the submitted drawings, the applicant has demonstrated visibility splays of 2.4m x 120m to the north and 2.4m x 91m to the south. Furthermore, the visibility splays shown have not been plotted to the nearside edge of the carriageway, as required. As a result, the submitted visibility information is not considered sufficient as presently shown.

The LHA therefore requests that the visibility splays be redrawn to the nearside edge of the carriageway in both directions. It is acknowledged that the full visibility distance of 120m may not be achievable within the constraints of the site. In such circumstances, the applicant should provide supporting speed survey data to justify any reduced visibility splay lengths.

To support this assessment, the applicant should undertake a seven-day Automatic Traffic Count (ATC) survey to establish the 85th percentile vehicle speeds on Littleworth Lane in the vicinity of the proposed access. The achievable visibility splays should then be assessed

against the recorded vehicle speeds to demonstrate that appropriate visibility can be provided in accordance with the guidance contained within DMRB CD 109.

Notwithstanding the above, should the submitted speed survey data demonstrate that the 85th percentile vehicle speeds are below 40mph in either direction, the Local Highway Authority would be willing to consider the application of visibility requirements derived from Manual for Streets (MfS), rather than those contained within DMRB CD 109. In such circumstances, the applicant should clearly demonstrate the appropriate visibility splay requirements based on the recorded vehicle speeds and provide justification for the design approach adopted. Any visibility assessment undertaken in accordance with MfS should be supported by the submitted speed survey data and demonstrate that adequate visibility can be achieved at the proposed access in the interests of highway safety.

Vehicle Crossover

The applicant should be advised that the construction of the proposed vehicle access, including the associated dropped kerb, will require a licence from WSCC. WSCC vehicle crossover guidance specifies a maximum crossover width of 6.4m.

The submitted drawings indicate a vehicle crossover width in excess of this maximum permitted standard. As such, the applicant is requested to amend the proposals to provide a vehicle crossover no greater than 6.4m in width. Failure to amend the proposed crossover width may result in the subsequent vehicle crossover licence application being refused, thereby preventing the access from being constructed as currently proposed.

Conclusion

The LHA require additional information before an adequate assessment can be made – please request the above from the applicant and reconsult.

Kyran Schneider
West Sussex County Council – Planning Services (Highways)