

Recommendation Report for Consent to Display an Advertisement(s)

REF NO: LU/55/17/A

LOCATION: 22 Beach Road
Littlehampton

PROPOSAL: 1 No. internally illuminated fascia sign & 1 No. internally illuminated projecting sign on front elevation.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION	As above.
SITE AREA	N/A
TOPOGRAPHY	Predominantly flat.
SITE CHARACTERISTICS	The site is occupied by a ground floor commercial unit which is currently unoccupied.
CHARACTER OF LOCALITY	The character of the locality is predominantly commercial at ground floor level with residential accommodation above.

RELEVANT SITE HISTORY

None.

REPRESENTATIONS

Representations received:

Littlehampton Town Council

The Town Council's Planning and Transportation Committee considered this matter at its meeting held on Monday 6th March 2017 and had no objection to the application.

Comments on Representations received:

Comments noted.

CONSULTATIONS

Consultations responses received:

None.

Comments on Consultation responses:

N/A

POLICY CONTEXT

Designation applicable to site:

DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES

[Arun District Local Plan 2003:](#)

PLANNING POLICY GUIDANCE

NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance

SUPPLEMENTARY POLICY GUIDANCE

SPD5	Advertisements
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DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND/OR LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Regulation 3(1)(a)(b), 3(2)(a)(b) and 4(3) of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007 states:-

"3(1) A local planning authority shall exercise its powers under these Regulations in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking into account -

- (a) The provision of the development plan, so far as they are material; and
- (b) Any other relevant factors.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1)(b) -

- (a) Factors relevant to amenity include the general characteristics of the locality, including the presence of any feature of historic, architectural, cultural or similar interest;
- (b) Factors relevant to public safety include -
 - (i) The safety of persons using any highway, railway, waterway, dock, harbour or aerodrome (civil or military);
 - (ii) Whether the display of the advertisement in question is likely to obscure or hinder the ready interpretation of any traffic sign, railway sign or aid to navigation by water or air;
 - (iii) Whether the display of the advertisement in question is likely to hinder the operation of any device used for the purpose of security or surveillance or for measuring the speed of any vehicle.

4(3) In determining an application for consent for the display of advertisements, the local planning authority may have regard to any material change in circumstances likely to occur within the period for which the consent is requested.

Para. 67 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) states that:

Poorly placed advertisements can have a negative impact on the appearance of the built and natural environment. Control over outdoor advertisements should be efficient, effective and simple in concept and operation. Only those advertisements which will clearly have an appreciable impact on a building or on their surroundings should be subject to the local planning authority's detailed assessment. Advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts.

Planning Practice Guidance states that:

Regulation 3 requires that local planning authorities control the display of advertisements in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking into account the provisions of the development plan, in so far as they are material, and any other relevant factors.

Planning Practice Guidance goes on to state that:

"Amenity" is not defined exhaustively in the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007. It includes aural and visual amenity (regulation 2(1)) and factors relevant to amenity include the general characteristics of the locality, including

the presence of any feature of historic, architectural, cultural or similar interest (regulation 3(2)(a)).

It is, however, a matter of interpretation by the local planning authority (and the Secretary of State) as it applies in any particular case. In practice, "amenity" is usually understood to mean the effect on visual and aural amenity in the immediate neighbourhood of an advertisement or site for the display of advertisements, where residents or passers-by will be aware of the advertisement.

So, in assessing amenity, the local planning authority would always consider the local characteristics of the neighbourhood: for example, if the locality where the advertisement is to be displayed has important scenic, historic, architectural or cultural features, the local planning authority would consider whether it is in scale and in keeping with these features.

This might mean that a large poster-hoarding would be refused where it would dominate a group of listed buildings, but would be permitted in an industrial or commercial area of a major city (where there are large buildings and main highways) where the advertisement would not adversely affect the visual amenity of the neighbourhood of the site.

If the advertisement makes a noise, aural amenity would also be taken into account before express consent would be given.

All advertisements are intended to attract attention but proposed advertisements at points where drivers need to take more care are more likely to affect public safety. For example, at junctions, roundabouts, pedestrian crossings, on the approach to a low bridge or level crossing or other places where local conditions present traffic hazards. There are less likely to be road safety problems if the advertisement is on a site within a commercial or industrial locality, if it is a shop fascia sign, name-board, trade or business sign, or a normal poster panel, and if the advertisement is not on the skyline.

Para. 3.1 of the Councils adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance for adverts confirms that 'The display of outdoor advertisements can only be controlled in the interests of amenity and public safety.

OTHER MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is considered that there are no other material considerations to warrant a decision otherwise than in accordance with the Development Plan and/or legislative background.

CONCLUSIONS

INTRODUCTION

As set out in the Development Plan Background section of this report the Councils consideration of this proposal is limited to amenity and public safety. These issues are considered below.

AMENITY

Paragraph 67 of the NPPF states that "Poorly placed advertisements can have a negative impact on the appearance of the built and natural environment. Control over outdoor advertisements should be efficient, effective and simple in concept and operation. Only those advertisements which will clearly have an appreciable impact on a building or on their surroundings should be

subject to the local planning authority's detailed assessment. Advertisements should be subject to control only in the interests of amenity and public safety, taking account of cumulative impacts."

Given the scale of the proposed advertisements and the established character of the locality it is considered that the proposed signs will not give rise to unacceptably adverse impacts upon the visual amenity of the locality or the residential amenity of nearby occupiers.

PUBLIC SAFETY

In terms of public safety, it is vital to consider whether the advertisement itself or its location is likely to be so distracting or so confusing, that it creates a hazard, or endangers people in the vicinity who are taking reasonable care for their own, or others, safety.

The proposed advertisement by virtue of their size, scale and location are not considered to create a distraction for drivers nor will they pose a risk to the safety of pedestrians.

SUMMARY

In the absence of harm to amenity or public safety, it is recommended that the application be approved, subject to the conditions set out below.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVE CONDITIONALLY

- 1 The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plan:

- Proposed elevations inc shop front & signs - PL02 Rev A

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of amenity and the environment in accordance with policy GEN7 of the Arun District Local Plan.

- 2 No advertisement is to be displayed without the permission of the owner of the site or any other person with an interest in the site entitled to grant permission.

Reason: As required by Regulation 14(1)(a) of the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007.

- 3 No advertisement shall be sited or displayed so as to-

- (a) endanger persons using any highway, railway, waterway, dock, harbour or aerodrome (civil or military);
- (b) obscure, or hinder the ready interpretation of, any traffic sign, railway signal or aid to navigation by water or air; or
- (c) hinder the operation of any device used for the purpose of security or surveillance or for measuring the speed of any vehicle

Reason: As required by Regulation 14(1)(a) of the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007.

- 4 Any advertisement displayed, and any site used for the display of advertisements, shall

be maintained in a condition that does not impair the visual amenity of the site.

Reason: As required by Regulation 14(1)(a) of the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations 2007.

- 5 The intensity of illumination of the proposed sign shall not exceed 500 cd/m.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and road safety in accordance with the NPPF.

- 6 The illumination of the proposed sign shall be of a non-intermittent type.

Reason: In the interests of the visual amenities of the locality and road safety in accordance with the NPPF.