

Steve Woods Consultants

Transportation, Traffic, and Highways

Town and Country Planning Act 1990

**Planning Application
(DC/19/63659)
for the Construction of
Six One-Bed Residential Apartments
at
66, Bratt Street, West Bromwich**

TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT

1 March 2021

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QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. This Transportation Statement (TS) has been written by Steve Woods, a director of Steve Woods Consultants Limited (SWC).
2. Steve has a Masters Degree in Transport and is a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Town Planning Studies. He is a Chartered Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in the UK, a Member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation, and a Member of the Royal Town Planning Institute.
3. He is a transport planner and has over thirty years of experience working in the field of traffic, transportation, and highways, in both the private and the public sectors.

INTRODUCTION

4. Planning consent is sought for the demolition of one residential unit, and for the construction of six one-bedroom self-contained apartments at 66, Bratt Street, West Bromwich. The building on the site is currently vacant, and the site is in a state of disrepair. The applicant proposes to improve this important site which fronts on to Bratt Street in the central area of West Bromwich. This is an opportunity to improve the area.
5. Bicycle parking provision would be made on site. No on-site car parking would be provided, and the Local Highway Authority (LHA) initially indicated its desire for a car parking survey to be carried out to provide evidence of off-site parking availability in the area. However, a later exchange of emails (see below) between SWC and Debbie Hyde, an officer of the LHA at Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, indicates that a car parking survey was no longer required. Instead, the LHA officer expressed a desire for this TS to provide details of sustainable accessibility in the area.
6. Following an initial email from SWC to the LHA officer, Debbie Hyde responded on Monday 11 January 2021, and said,

Please do not proceed with any counts this week, due to the pandemic they will not be representative of the usual parking situation. Please confirm if you will submit a short statement to outline the sustainability of the site, with or without the parking surveys. Given the number of apartments proposed in this case, I will then refer to my line manger to confirm if we can be more flexible to the proposals.

7. SWC responded on the same day, (11 January).

Thanks for your swift response. In accordance with your wishes, we will hold-off on any car parking surveys.... However, I am sure that the applicant will be anxious to progress the application, and so, would the following suggestion be helpful? I will be passing the area on Wednesday anyway. I could have a quick look at the issues surrounding the site, but with emphasis on the sustainable nature of the site - buses and trams being nearby. We have been instructed to prepare a short Transportation Statement (TS), and the TS could emphasise the sustainable nature of the site. Given that it is only a small development for six small units, with most (if not all) residents likely to be non-car owners, some flexibility would be most welcome. What are your thoughts on this approach?

8. Debbie Hyde responded on Tuesday 12 January.

I think given the current situation and the size of the development site this would be an acceptable approach. I will still review the TS obviously but without the requirement for parking surveys.

9. SWC visited the site and the surrounding area on Wednesday 13 January 2021 and on Thursday 14 January 2021 and carried out site investigations.

APPLICATION SITE AND SUSTAINABLE ACCESSIBILITY

10. The application site is located at 66, Bratt Street, West Bromwich. It is near the junction of Bratt Street and Sandwell Road. Bratt Street is a mini cul-de-sac at this point.
11. Planning consent is sought for the demolition of one three-storey residential unit, and the construction of six one-bedroom self-contained apartments. The building on the site is currently vacant, and the site is in a state of disrepair. The applicant proposes to improve this important site. This is an opportunity to improve the area.

12. Bicycle parking provision would be made on site under the stairwell within the building. No on-site car parking would be provided, but there is some off-site parking available. However, given that the proposal is small, that the new occupants are not expected to be car-owners, and that the site is located in a very sustainably accessible location, further analysis of car parking is not required by the LHA.
13. The application site is within the central area of West Bromwich. There are numerous facilities in the area and within walking distance of the site including centres of employment, shops, services, places of worship, centres of education, public transport, community centres, health facilities, leisure facilities, and more. There are well-maintained and well-lit footways serving the area.
14. Public Transport
15. There are a number of bus services within walking distance of the application site. Bus stops are on High Street only 200 metres away. Bus stops along High Street have shelters with seating, lighting, and timetables. Bus services include numbers 41, 41A, 44, 47, 74, 74A, and 79. As well as providing a link to the main bus station, which is only a 750-metre walk away, buses provide links to many locations.
16. Bus services 41, 41A, and 47 operate between Wednesbury and West Bromwich via Hall End, and between Wednesbury and West Bromwich via Hateley Heath, and between Friar Park and West Bromwich via Stone Cross. Services begin at 0507 Hours and there are six to nine buses every hour until early evening. Buses are then every thirty minutes until 2330 Hours. Saturday services are similar. Sunday services are every thirty minutes from 1032 Hours to 2330 Hours.
17. Bus service 44 is a circular route and operates between Harvils Hawthorne and West Bromwich. Services begin at 0613 Hours on weekdays and end at 1817 Hours. On Saturday services are from 0723 Hours until 1813 Hours. On Sunday services are from 0853 Hours until 1710 Hours. Buses are every thirty minutes on all days.
18. Bus services 74 and 74A operate between Dudley and Birmingham via West Bromwich, and between Dudley and West Bromwich via Great Bridge. Services begin at 0433 Hours and there are six or seven buses every hour until 2100 Hours. Thereafter buses are every thirty minutes until 0023 Hours. Saturday services are similar. Sunday services are from 0659 Hours until 0023 Hours with two to four buses every hour.

19. Bus service 79 operates between Wolverhampton and West Bromwich via Wednesbury. Services begin at 0455 Hours and end at 2354 Hours with up to six buses an hour. Saturday services are similar. Buses are every thirty minutes on Sunday from 0739 Hours until 2354 Hours.
20. Only 600 metres from the application site, is the Dartmouth Street Midland Metro stop. The Lodge Road (Town Hall) stop is a similar distance away. Trams operate between Birmingham and Wolverhampton with many stops between. Trams begin operating at 0449 Hours, run every six minutes in both directions at peak times, run every eight minutes in both directions during the day, run every fifteen minutes in both directions in the evening, and continue until 0036 Hours. Saturday services are similar. Sunday services begin at 0734 Hours and continue until 0006 Hours with headways of fifteen minutes in both directions.
21. Local Facilities
22. Only 75 metres from the application site, on Bratt Street, is the Blueberry Day Nursery and pre-school. A short distance to the north is the Hargate Primary School with pedestrian access. Only 500 metres away is the Sandwell College and Education Centre on New Street.
23. In the Church Street area there is the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Sweda social and support centre, and West Bromwich Job Centre.
24. There are many employment opportunities within walking distance in the area, including to the north of the application site on Providence Place where there are hotels and offices.
25. Further north, and again within walking distance of the application site is the West Bromwich Baptist Church. On Temple Street there is an Evangelical church which is only a little over 200 metres from the site. There are other churches in the area, an Islamic centre in Dartmouth Street near the Midland Metro stop, and a Sikh temple near the Edward Street Hospital which is only 550 metres from the site to the south-east.
26. Off Sandwell Road, which adjoins Bratt Street, is the Sun repair garage, Capital Recruitment, and Sandwell Register Office.
27. As well as the Islamic Centre, and the Metro stop, the Dartmouth Medical Centre is also on Dartmouth Street.

28. High Street is only 200 metres from the application site. On High Street there are a variety of services and shops. The bus station is near one end where High Street meets St Michael Street.
29. On High Street there are several banks including Lloyds, TSB, Barclays, HSBC, and Nat West. There are solicitors, accountants, estate agents, and travel agents. There is the West Bromwich Town Hall, and the Central Library.
30. There are numerous food outlets along High Street including food-take-away shops, mini-supermarkets including the Tani Sklep supermarket and Delicii Romanesti. There is a Polish store, greengrocers, a sweet centre, cafes, restaurants, and a Lidl supermarket which is only 350 metres from the application site.
31. Various churches are found on High Street including St Michael Catholic Church, the Wesley Methodist Church, and the Centrepoint Christian Church.
32. There is a chiropodist on High Street, and the Carters Green Medical Centre, the Polsk Dental Practice, and The Dental Practice,
33. There are several pubs on High Street including Strollers, Shaftesbury Casino lounge bar and restaurant, The Old Hop Pole, The Sandwell, The Clock House Bar and Grill, and The Wheatsheaf.
34. There are numerous hair salons and barbers, a laundrette, an electrical store, a chemist, a mini-DIY store, and a post office on High Street.
35. Other shops and services on High Street include Picture Gallery, Autowise Motor Spares, The Tulip Day Nursery, Coop Funeral Care, Care Services, Beauty Queens Cosmetics, Furniture World, The Anchor Gym, the Global Centre, Angels Gents Club, Domain Plaza Conferencing, Kaires Tutoring, the Hath Futures medical careers training and education centre, Kally's Cakes, Sidhu Pharmacy, Oscar Wines, Billingham's Florist, Ideal Employment Ltd, Britannia Carpets, Stokes opticians, Day Lewis Pharmacy, Decoron decorating store, Kingston House (NHS Arden facility), and more.
36. The main central shopping area is only 500 metres from the application site. In the New Square there is a Subway, William Hill, Connells, Marks and Spencer, Leisure Lakes bikes, Infla Nation, Sonique (Dress House) boutique, Pavers, GAP, B&M Bargains, Puregym, Next, Tesco, the New Square Odeon, and the sixth-form college.

37. High Street continues into the main central shopping area as a pedestrianised area and market. There are more banks and building societies such as Santander, Nationwide, and Halifax. As well as many smaller shops, there are many of the well-known names such as Argos, Home Bargains, New Look, Poundland, Farmfoods, Savers, and McDonalds.
38. Off High Street is the Queens Square Shopping Centre being only 750 metres from the application site and including outlets such as Primark. There is also the Kings Square Shopping Centre.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

39. Planning consent is sought for the demolition of one residential unit, and for the construction of six one-bedroom self-contained apartments at 66, Bratt Street, West Bromwich. This important site is in a state of disrepair, and the applicant proposes to improve the site, and by so doing - the area too.
40. The application site is within the central area of West Bromwich, and there are numerous facilities in the area and within walking distance of the site. The LHA agrees that the application site is in a sustainably accessible location, and has indicated that this TS should provide some detail relating to sustainability.
41. Although there is some available parking provision in the area, the LHA has said that there is not a need to consider car parking; the proposed development being small. Most, if not all, the new occupants are expected to be non-car-owners.
42. In highways and sustainability terms, there appears to be every reason for planning approval to be granted.

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