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planning

Ref: GA/RW/01520/L0001

15 July 2020

Planning Department
London Borough of Hillingdon
Civic Centre
High Street
Uxbridge
Middlesex
UB8 1UW

Dear Sir/Madam

**S73 Planning Application to vary Condition 2 of planning permission at 8704/APP/2001/352
Crescent Building Supplies, Breakspear Road, Ruislip, HA4 7SN**

On behalf of our clients, Grafton Merchanting GB Ltd, please find enclosed a S73 planning application (Portal. Ref: PP-08804443) for the variation of condition no.2 The requisite application fee of £234 will be paid online.

Condition no. 2 of planning permission ref. 8704/APP/2001/352, states as follows:

The premises shall not be used except between 7:30 hours and 17:30 hours Monday to Fridays, between 7:30 and 13:00 hours on Saturdays and at no time on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

It is proposed that the wording of condition no.2 be varied to the following:

The premises shall not be used except between 07:00 hours and 18:00 hours Monday to Fridays, between 7:30 and 13:00 hours on Saturdays and at no time on Sundays and Bank Holidays for a temporary period ending on 13 May 2021, following which permitted opening hours shall revert to those specified in condition 2 of planning permission ref. 8704/APP/2001/352.

The submission of this application follows the ministerial statement made on the 13 May 2020. In it as part of its COVID-19 recovery strategy it was acknowledged that longer working hours may be needed to facilitate social distancing and urged local planning authorities to take a swift and positive approach to requests from developers for greater flexibility around construction site working hours.

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This is consistent with other guidance that the government has issued, including the Chief Planners letter, dated 23 March 2020, for planning authorities to adopt a proactive, pragmatic and flexible approach towards planning restrictions. This is intended to support important economic activity during this exceptional period in which businesses have been required to implement special measures to combat the effects of COVID-19.

As an important supplier to the construction industry the application site is now operating in line with government guidelines on social distancing. This limits the number of customers which branches can accommodate at any one time, with collections arranged via pre-booked time slots etc. This limits the ability of branches to meet existing demands and respond appropriately to the needs of their customers, including those construction sites which are now working to extended hours. The proposed extended opening hours, for a temporary period, will better enable the site to provide for their customers and support construction sites during these unprecedented times.

The ministerial statement expects local planning authorities to approve requests to extend construction working hours temporarily to ensure safe working in line with social distancing guidelines until 9pm, Monday to Saturday, unless there are very compelling reasons against this, and asks that such applications are dealt with swiftly (with the aim of doing so within 10 days). The statement advises that temporary changes to working hours should not extend beyond 13 May 2021.

With builders merchants performing a vital role in the construction supply chain it is considered the same principles should apply to applications like this one.

We trust that this application can be registered and processed at the earliest opportunity. However in the event you have any queries in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact myself or my colleague Roger Welchman.

Yours faithfully

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Geoff Armstrong 
Director
Armstrong Rigg Planning

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