

PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P13/1697

Type of approval sought	Advertisement
Ward	Quarry Bank & Dudley Wood Lye and Stourbridge North
Applicant	Jan Butcher, Marketing Force Ltd
Location:	ISLAND AT THORNS ROAD/CALEDONIA, QUARRY BANK, BRIERLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS
Proposal	DISPLAY 3 NO. NON-ILLUMINATED SPONSORSHIP SIGNS
Recommendation Summary:	APPROVE SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The application site consists of a vehicular roundabout at the junction of Thorns Road and Caledonia in Quarry Bank.
2. The surrounding area is a mix of residential and industry, with residential uses generally to the west and industrial uses to the east of Thorns Road.
3. There are 4 existing circular directional and chevron signs on the island and two existing advertising signs.

PROPOSAL

4. This is an application under the advertisement regulations for the provision of 3 roundabout sponsorship signs measuring 914mm by 458mm mounted on two black posts with a total height of 800mm. Each sign would be set in at least 1m from the edge of the carriageway.

5. The proposed signs would allow for the provision of a sponsor's name, a company logo, a short message and contact details (i.e. website, telephone number, address). The signs would also includes a strip stating "*In Partnership with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council*"
6. The signs would be located opposite the roundabout entrances from Thorns Road (2) and Caledonia.
7. The applicant has provided a supporting statement with the application which states they work with 100 local authorities with roundabout sponsorship throughout the country.
8. The applicant states that it has worked with the Council since 2005 when the signs were first approved at a number of limited sites thought out the borough.

HISTORY

9.

APPLICATION No.	PROPOSAL	DECISION	DATE
P05/1285	Display 4 No non illuminated signs on highway island	Refused	10/06/05
P05/1784	Display of 2 No non illuminated signs on highway island	Approved	12/08/05

10. The application P05/1285 was refused for the following reasons:
 1. The propsoed signage by virtue of their position and appearance would result in the clutter of signage and would constitute an incongruous and intrusive feature on the traffic island set against a landscaped background, detrimental to the visual amenity of the surrounding area. This would be contrary to DD14 Advertisement Control (Dudley Untiary Development Plan Revised Deposit), Planning Guidance Note 11 - Advertisement Display Guide

and advice given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 19 - Outdoor Advertisement Control.

2. The proposed display of signage would cause additional dangers to users of the highway by distracting the attention of drivers of vehicles and would therefore be detrimental to public safety. This would be contrary to DD14 Advertisement Control (Dudley Unitary Development Plan Revised Deposit), Planning Guidance Note 11 - Advertisement Display Guide and advice given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 19 - Outdoor Advertisement Control.

The subsequent application for two signs was approved the reduced signage was considered to have overcome the reasons for refusal.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

11. None required.

OTHER CONSULTATION

12. Group Engineer (Highways): Concerns are raised, in that the roundabout has a higher than average accident rate, although recognise there is no proven link between modest advertising signage and accidents.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY

- National Planning Guidance (2012)
National Planning Policy Framework
-Paragraph 67
- Unitary Development Plan (2005) (Saved Policies)
DD14 Advertisement Control
- Supplementary Planning Guidance/Documents
PGN 11. Advertisement display guide

ASSESSMENT

13. The main issues are
- Policy
 - Amenity
 - Public Safety

Policy

14. NPPF paragraph 67 states, *“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”*.
15. Saved Policy DD14 of the Dudley Unitary Development Plan states that: *“The Council will resist the erection of any advertisement which is substantially detrimental to the appearance of the building or on land which it is displayed, or to visual amenity of the surrounding area, or is prejudicial to public safety. The Council will also require that any advertisement has regard to the safe use and operation of any form of transport”*.

Amenity

16. As set out in the planning history a previous application has been refused with concerns relating to visual harm and amenity.
17. When these applications were considered back in 2005, roundabout sponsorship was a comparatively new initiative and was fairly uncommon.

18. In the last 8 years sponsorship signs have become recognised pieces of street furniture at many roundabouts and similar road junctions in urban areas around the country. In addition their modest size 914mm by 458mm compared to other signage associated with road junctions means any impact that they have would be limited.
19. Therefore on this basis it is not considered that the previous refusal or part refusal of such signage could be reasonably defended on amenity grounds, particularly as the application site is not the subject of any statutory designations.

Public Safety

20. The proposed signs are located at a critical section of the junction where they could potentially distract driver's attention at a point where they need to take exceptional care.
21. The Group Engineer (Highways) maintain that from a public safety point of view that whilst there is no proven evidence to support that the proposed advertising signs cause accidents at traffic roundabouts the highway Authority suggest ongoing concerns in relation to road accidents and in particular for vulnerable road users.
22. The recorded accident history at this junction is higher than the accepted accident rate.
23. In the interests of public safety the Group Engineer (Highways) would wish to raise safety concerns regarding this application.

CONCLUSION

24. The proposed signage is not considered to cause any significant harm to amenity in that such sponsorship signs have become regular and frequent features of traffic roundabouts. In addition the modest size of the signs and there limited number to the roundabout would not result in any significant harm and whilst there are concerns from a highway safety point of view it is not proven that the signs would

have a detrimental impact on highway safety. Consideration has been given to Saved Policy DD14 Advertisement Control of the Dudley Unitary Development Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

25. It is recommended that the application be APPROVED subject to the following conditions:

Notes to Applicant

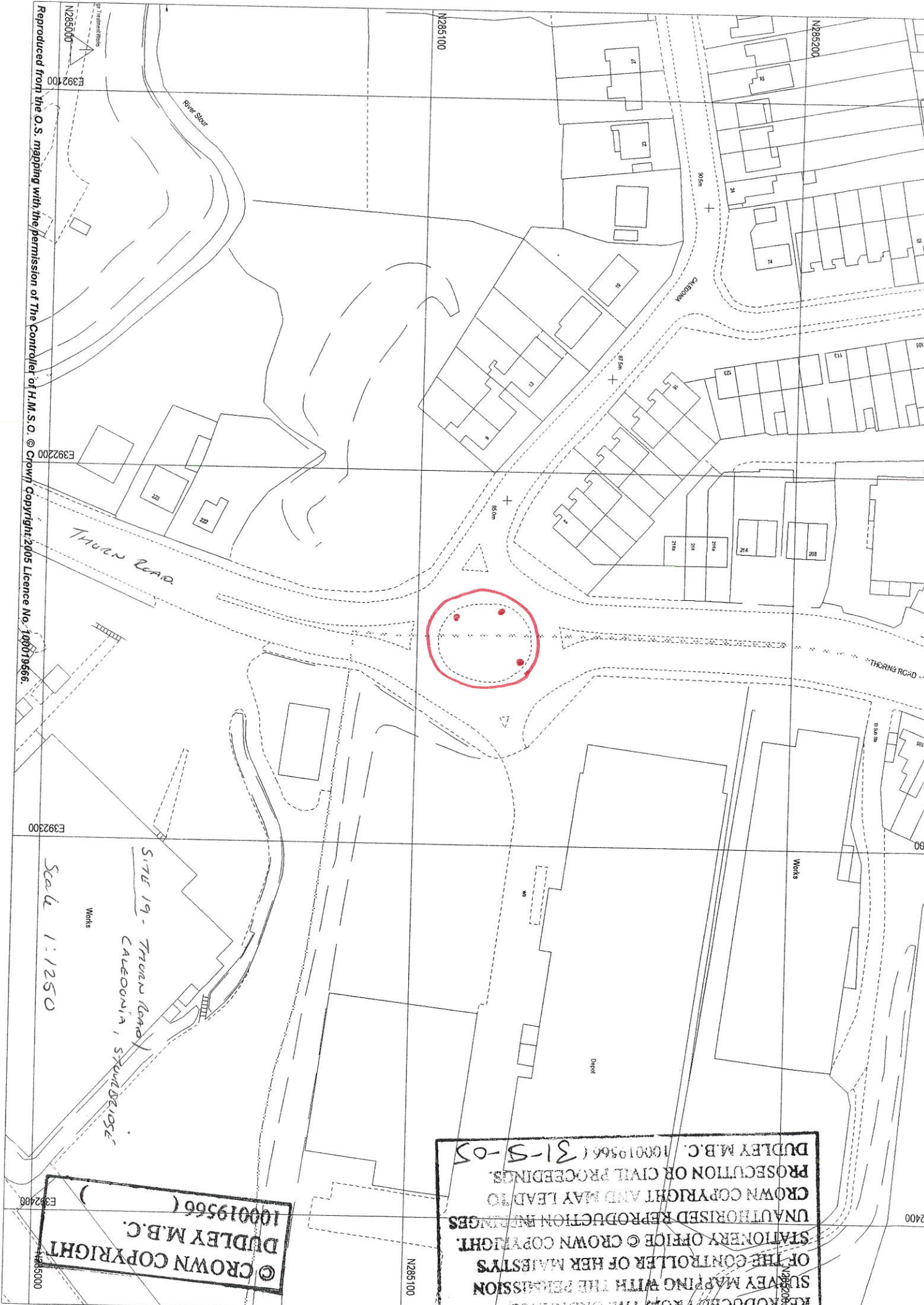
In dealing with this application the Local Planning Authority have worked with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner, seeking solutions to problems arising in relation to dealing with the application, by seeking to help the applicant resolve technical detail issues where required and maintaining the delivery of sustainable development. The development would improve the economic, social and environmental concerns of the area and thereby being in accordance with paragraphs 186 and 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Informative

In order to avoid any visibility obstruction it is imperative that the correct angle and final position of the approved signage is confirmed prior to its final completion on site. Please therefore contact the Highways Authority to ensure that the details are submitted and agreed.

Conditions and/or reasons:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Any structure or hoarding erected or used principally for the purpose of displaying advertisements shall be maintained in a condition that does not endanger the public.
5. Where an advertisement is required to be removed under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007, the site shall be left in a condition that does not endanger the public or impair visual amenity.
6. This consent shall remain valid for a period of five years from the date hereof.
7. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Site Location Plan, Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.



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Scale 1:1250
Works
Site 19 - Thorn Road
CALEDONIA, STOURDELLOSE

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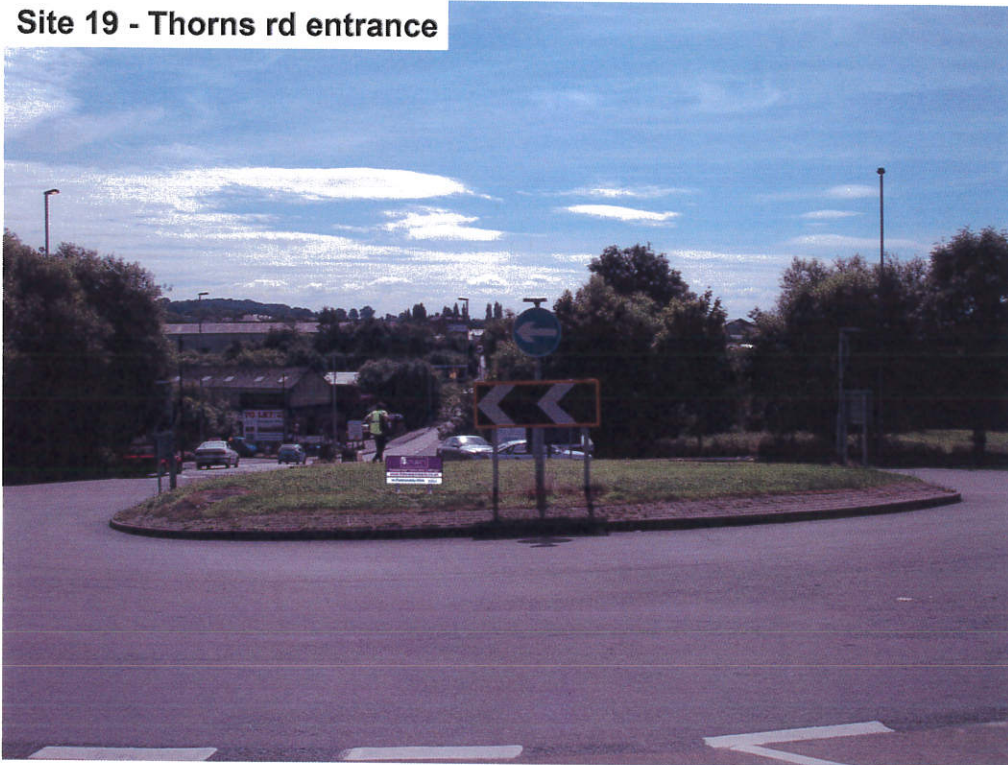
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• = SIGNAGE POSITIONS

Site 19 – Thorns Road/Caledonia, Stourbridge

Existing site – propose increasing number of signs from 2 to 3

Site 19 - Thorns rd entrance



Total 3 signs:-

1 sign at entrance Thorns Road North – consent granted

1 sign at entrance Thorns Road South – consent granted

1 sign at entrance Caledonia

