



Appeal Decision

Site visit made on 15 July 2025

by **D J Barnes MBA BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI**

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State

Decision date: 01 August 2025

Appeal Ref: APP/K3415/Z/25/3366555

46-48 Wheel Lane, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS13 7EA

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) against a refusal to grant planning permission.
 - The appeal is made by NCR against the decision of Lichfield District Council.
 - The application Ref is 25/00268/FUL.
 - The development proposed is the installation of an automatic teller machine and associated signage.
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Decision

1. The appeal is dismissed.

Procedural Matter

2. This appeal concerns the installation of the automatic teller machine (ATM) rather than the erection of the proposed signage which may require separate advertisement consent.

Main Issue

3. It is considered that the main issues are the effects of the proposed development on the fear of crime.

Reasons

4. The proposed development includes the erection of an ATM within the front elevation of a convenience store located within a parade of shops which, itself, is surrounded by residential development. The ATM would be sited to the side of the main entrance door to the shop which is accessed via stairs and a ramp from a wide footway. At the top of the stairs is a platform, partially enclosed by low railings, which would be where people using the proposed ATM would stand. As identified by the council, the platform is not particularly large and someone using the ATM would be sharing this space with customers accessing the shop.
5. The shop is open until 21:00 hours and the closing time for the neighbouring take-away business is 22:00 hours. There are CCTV cameras erected within the front elevations of these neighbouring premises which are directed towards their entrance doors. The shop's CCTV covers the site of the proposed ATM and there is external lighting of the shop frontage. These matters would provide some reassurance for people using the ATM against the fear of crime

6. However, the Architectural Liaison Officer has raised concerns, adopted by the council, about the defensible or private space available for users of the proposed ATM and the creation of a pinch point which would allow other to loiter close-by. The appellant has identified the ATM could have a PIN shield and a privacy space could be marked out on the ground and that these measures would provide further reassurance to the user of the ATM.
7. Although the identified security measures could potentially assist in making customer of the ATM feel safer, they do not address the physical constraints associated with the lack of platform space and the proximity of the ATM to the shop's entrance door. The shop's customers and the proposed ATM's users would physically be in too close a proximity that would result in, at least, the perception of a fear of crime of the type identified by the Architectural Liaison Officer.
8. For these reasons, it is concluded that the proposed development would result in the fear of crime being at an unacceptable level and, as such, it would be contrary to Policies CP10 and BE1 of the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework. Amongst other matters, these policies seek high quality design which minimises opportunities for crime and antisocial behaviour and developments that are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion. Accordingly, it is concluded that this appeal should be dismissed.

D J Barnes

INSPECTOR