

S & M Care Ltd – Agenda 8

Cheadle Area Committee Meeting 29th October 2024.

Applicant's Response To Comments Made At The Above Meeting.

Consideration of the planning application at 2 Greenhythe Road, Heald Green, Cheadle, Stockport, SK8 3NS (Application Reference: DC/092780) was deferred at the above meeting and will now be presented to the Planning & Highways Meeting. The Applicants response to the matters raised during the debate on the application are set out below.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The shop that Councillor Charles-Jones referred to at the meeting is located at 11 Greenway

Background

In September 2023 the shop had an ASB issue, in which the applicant Mr Singh was involved in tackling on behalf of the local community having liaised directly with Police / Trading standards / residents / councillors.

Current

In May 2024, the business was taken over by new owners, and since there has been:

No police attendance / No anti-social behaviour.

Care Home Children

The children are in the care & supervision of the home/carers for 24hrs as a long-term family unit.

They are escorted at all times to & from school. Any food / shopping is purchased by the carers in advance and any visits to shops/ libraries / Parks are conducted whilst being accompanied.

OFSTED the national regulatory authority is responsible for inspecting and regulating children's homes, therefore they have rigorous risk / impact / environmental- assessments, policies / procedures prior to any license is considered to be granted.

Stockport Commissioning Group – Objection

This objection is based on a Societal barriers, it can lead to a sense of exclusion and 'otherness' for these children who may already feel displaced or vulnerable. In most cases it can make them feel rejected and marginalised impacting on sense of self-worth.

Councils are encouraged to develop inclusive policies that prioritise and support all children, regardless of their background, with a focus on addressing each child's unique needs. Currently, some children from the Stockport Council area are placed in other council areas to ensure their needs are properly met.

Ofsted's framework and related policies support residential care homes that could include children from outside the immediate area. It can provide benefits not only to the children themselves but also to the local community. Here are key advantages of accepting out-of-area children.

1. Focus on the Best Interests and Welfare of the Child

- **Child-Centred Care:** Ofsted's Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF) highlights that the best interests of the child should be at the core of placement decisions. This often means finding placements that are the most suitable for a child's specific needs, even if it is outside their immediate locality.
- **Safe Environment for Healing:** For many children, out-of-area placements provide a safer, more stable environment away from prior trauma or negative influences. This approach aligns with Ofsted's mandate that children in care should have environments that support their emotional health and promote recovery.
- **Ofsted Framework Support:** SCCIF criteria stress that children's homes should be "safe, nurturing, and in children's best interests," often requiring flexibility in geographic placement to prioritise emotional and physical safety.

2. Enhanced Placement Stability and Consistency

- **Reduced Placement Disruptions:** Ofsted promotes the concept of stable and consistent placements, as frequent moves can negatively impact children's development and well-being. Expanding options to out-of-area placements allows councils to match children with homes best suited to their specific needs, increasing placement stability.
- **Minimised Risk of Placement Breakdown:** By broadening placement options, residential homes can reduce the likelihood of a "placement breakdown." If the best available home is outside the local area, Ofsted supports this placement, provided the home meets regulatory standards.
- **Policy Support:** Ofsted's Inspection of Children's Homes Framework (2023) emphasises the importance of consistent, individualised care that prioritises the child's needs, and supports placing children in the environment most likely to offer stability, even if this means out-of-area placements.

3. Access to Specialised Services and Tailored Care

- **Specialised Resources for Complex Needs:** Children from outside the area may have complex needs that require specialised services not available locally. By allowing

placements from different areas, residential care homes can cater to these specific needs, enhancing the care quality for all children in residence.

- **Policy Alignment with Ofsted Guidance:** Ofsted inspections consider the suitability of the home to meet the diverse needs of children placed within it. Ofsted supports the placement of children where their holistic needs—medical, psychological, and educational—can be met most effectively, which sometimes means looking beyond the immediate area.

- **Evidence-Based Framework:** According to Ofsted’s Children’s Homes Compliance Handbook, homes must demonstrate the ability to meet individual needs for children with complex histories, and having access to specialised services is part of what inspectors assess as part of their compliance checks.

4. Community and Economic Benefits to the Local Area

- **Job Creation and Skills Development:** By accepting children from other areas, residential care homes can increase staffing and create job opportunities for locals. This economic stimulation benefits the community and supports Ofsted’s guidance that homes should have skilled and well-trained staff.

- **Funding and Local Resource Improvements:** Accepting out-of-area placements can bring additional funding and resource allocation, which can be invested in the care home and indirectly benefit local children as well. Ofsted supports that homes must demonstrate they have “sufficient resources” to maintain a high standard of care, which is facilitated by additional funding through cross-council placements.

- **Ofsted’s Framework for Supporting Children’s Homes:** The SCCIF encourages homes to establish themselves as valuable community assets that foster a culture of care and empathy, promoting an inclusive environment that benefits both the children and the community.

5. Community Awareness and Inclusivity

- **Reducing Stigma and Promoting Diversity:** Introducing children from diverse backgrounds encourages the local community to be more understanding and inclusive, reducing stigma associated with children in care. Ofsted’s guidance on ‘Promoting the Welfare of Children in Residential Care’ underlines the importance of inclusivity in residential homes to foster a supportive environment.

- **Policy Alignment:** Ofsted’s expectations for children’s homes include creating positive relationships and engaging with the local community, promoting an understanding of children’s needs and reducing societal barriers.

- **SCCIF Framework:** This framework supports homes that actively engage the community in positive ways, fostering a welcoming environment and promoting mutual respect between children in care and community members, regardless of their origins.

6. Facilitating Stronger Inter-Council Collaboration

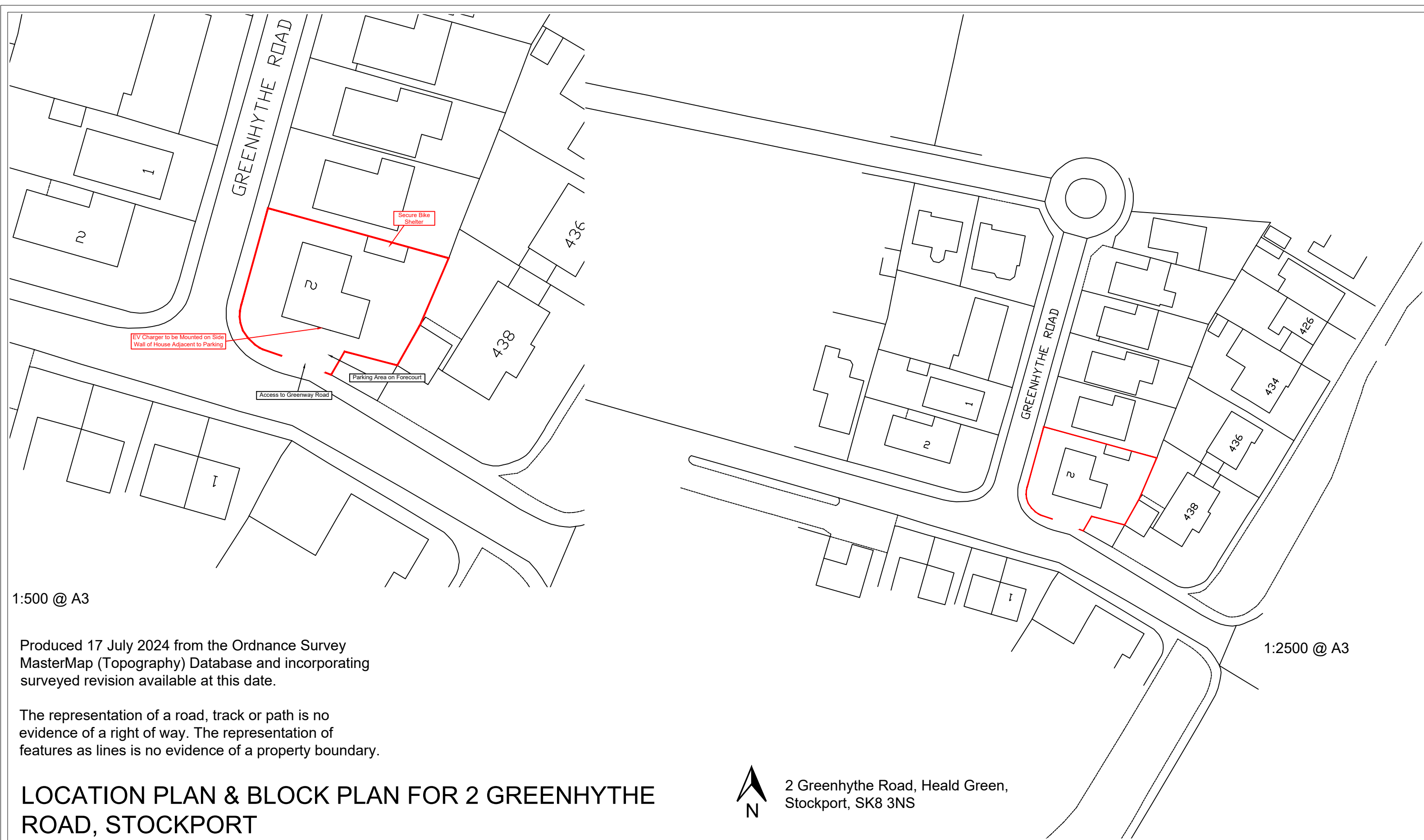
- **Streamlining Resources Across Regions:** By sharing resources and expertise through cross-council placements, councils can better meet children's needs without the constraints of local area availability. This approach also strengthens connections between councils and facilitates sharing best practices.
- **Ofsted's Role in Encouraging Collaboration:** Ofsted encourages councils and care homes to work together effectively, particularly where placements are concerned, to ensure each child receives the best possible support.
- **Framework Alignment:** Ofsted's inspection criteria assess the effectiveness of partnerships, with a focus on inter-agency cooperation that improves outcomes for children, including placements across regions.

Conclusion

Allowing out-of-area placements in a residential children's care home not only aligns with Ofsted's expectations but also promotes the highest quality of care for vulnerable children. The Social Care Common Inspection Framework (SCCIF), Inspection of Children's Homes Framework (2023), and other Ofsted guidance all emphasise that placements should be based on the child's best interests, stability, and access to specialised resources, even if it requires relocating outside their local area.

By following these guidelines, residential children's care homes can provide supportive, high-quality care that benefits children and contributes positively to the local community.

05.11.24



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Produced 17 July 2024 from the Ordnance Survey MasterMap (Topography) Database and incorporating surveyed revision available at this date.

The representation of a road, track or path is no evidence of a right of way. The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

LOCATION PLAN & BLOCK PLAN FOR 2 GREENHYTHE ROAD, STOCKPORT



2 Greenhythe Road, Heald Green, Stockport, SK8 3NS

1:2500 @ A3

AE01: PHOTOGRAPHS

No.2 Greenhythe Road, Cheadle, SK8 3NS



1. Front view from Greenhythe Road.

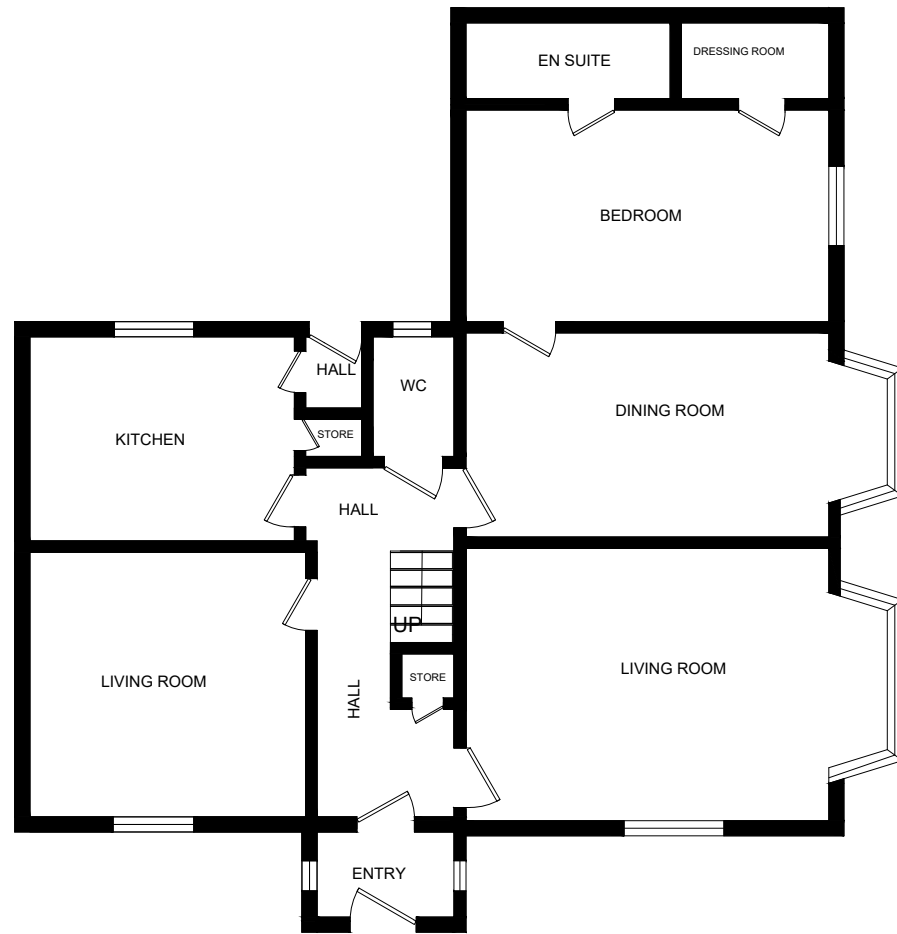


2. Side view from Greenway Road.

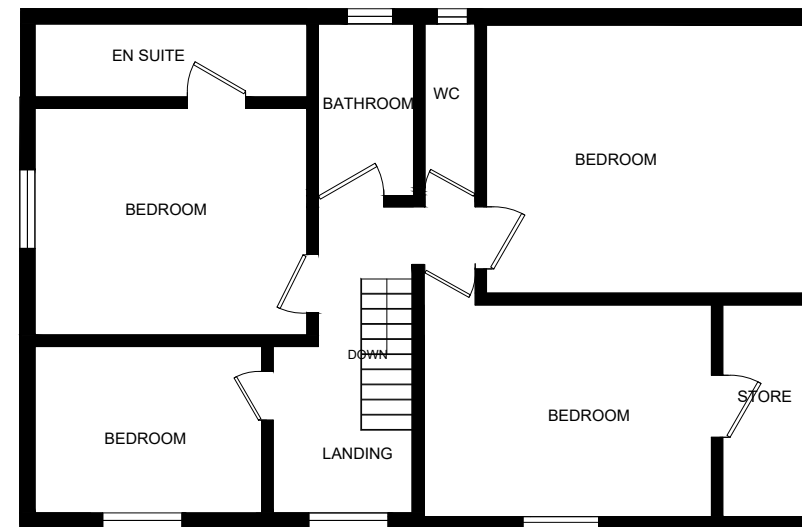


3. Outbuilding in rear garden to be used for both general and cycle storage.

GROUND FLOOR



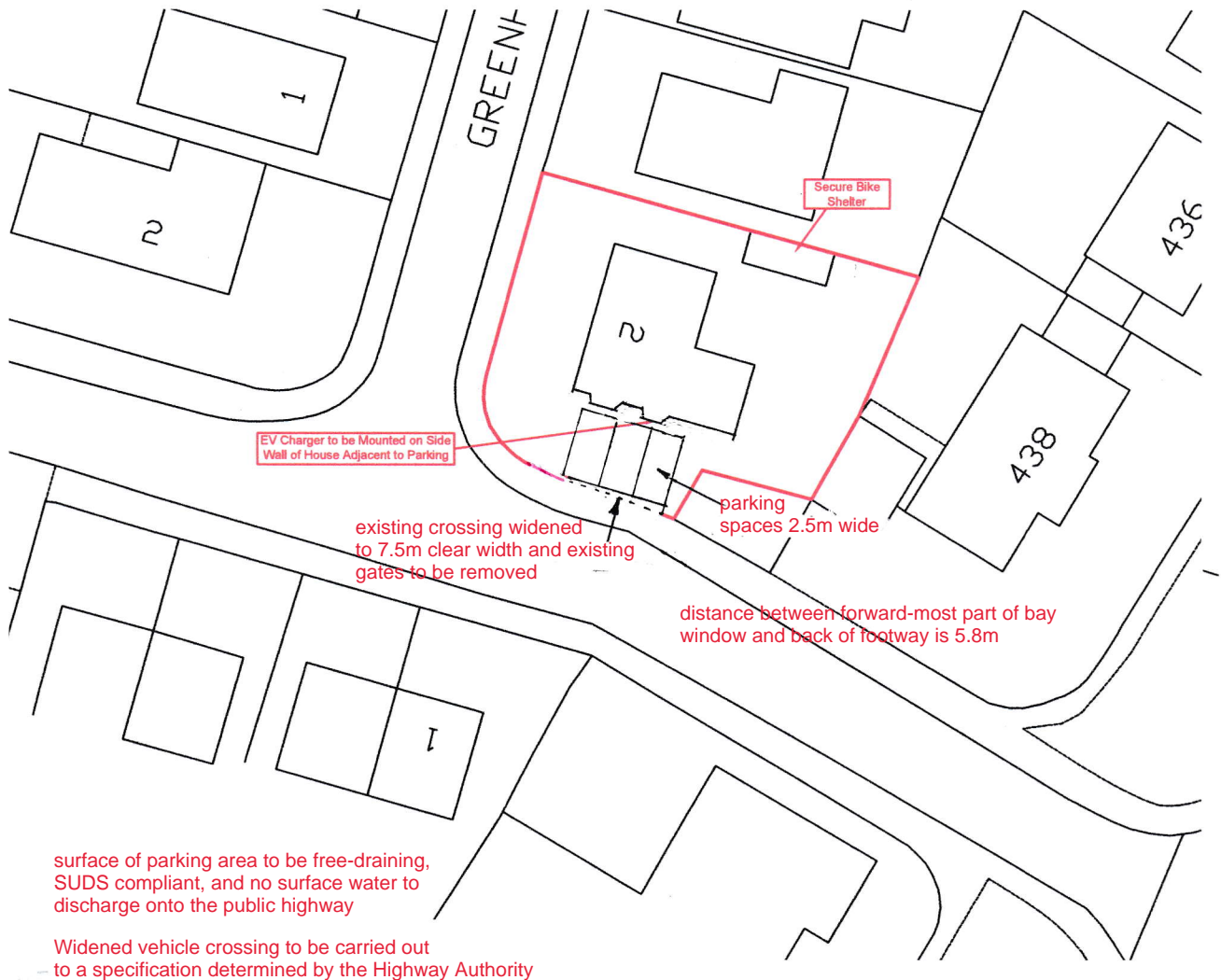
FIRST FLOOR



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EXISTING AND PROPOSED FLOOR PLANS AT 2 GREENHYTHE ROAD, STOCKPORT, SK8 3NS

DRG No TR.1



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October 2024

PROPOSED PARKING PROVISION AT NO 2 GREENHYTHE ROAD, HEALD GREEN, CHEADLE