Horsham District Council

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS - ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO./ADDRESS:
DC/25/1111
49 Onslow Walk, Broadbridge Heath, West Sussex, RH12 3XJ

DESCRIPTION:
Part conversion of existing garage to create new garden room. Replacement of existing door and creating new window. Installation of partitioning and door to remaining garage.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY:

DC/13/2408	Outline application for the erection of up to 165 residential dwellings (use class C3) including affordable housing, a 60-bed care home (use class C2) with separate staff accommodation, two new vehicular accesses, associated infrastructure, groundworks, open space and landscaping (Outline) (Development affects the setting of a Listed Building)	Application Refused on 27.06.2014. Appeal Allowed.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Horsham District Planning Framework (2015):
Policy 31 - Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
Policy 32 - Strategic Policy: The Quality of New Development
Policy 33 - Development Principles
Policy 40 - Sustainable Transport
Policy 41 - Parking

Horsham District Local Plan (2023-40) (Regulation 19):
Policy 17: Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
Policy 19: Development Quality
Policy 20: Development Principles
Policy 24: Sustainable Transport
Policy 25: Parking

REPRESENTATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS RESPONSES
Where consultation responses have been summarised, it should be noted that Officers have had consideration of the full comments received, which are available to view on the public file at www.horsham.gov.uk.

Consultations:
Natural England: Standing Advice:-

It cannot be concluded that existing abstraction within the Sussex North Water Supply Zone is not having an adverse effect on the integrity of the Arun Valley SAC/SPA/Ramsar sites. Developments within Sussex North must therefore must not add to this impact and one way of achieving this is to

demonstrate water neutrality. The definition of water neutrality is the use of water in the supply area before the development is the same or lower after the development is in place.

To achieve this Natural England is working in partnership with all the relevant authorities to secure water neutrality collectively through a water neutrality strategy. Whilst the strategy is evolving, Natural England advises that decisions on planning applications should await its completion. However, if there are applications which a planning authority deems critical to proceed in the absence of the strategy, then Natural England advises that any application needs to demonstrate water neutrality.

WSCC Highways Department: The existing garage meets WSCC standards and currently counts as 0.5 of a parking space. Its proposed conversion will remove this provision, but the property retains frontage parking for two vehicles. No additional bedrooms are proposed, so parking demand remains unchanged. Although the property technically requires three spaces, the garage is not used for parking, so the reduction to two spaces is unlikely to cause immediate overspill. On-street parking and nearby public transport options may help mitigate any future impact. Cycle storage can be accommodated within the remaining garage space. The Local Highway Authority has no objections.

Parish Comments:
Warnham Parish Council: No objection.

Boradbridge Heath Parish Council: No objection.

Representations:
None received

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUALITY:
The application has been considered having regard to Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Human Rights Act 1998, which sets out a person's rights to the peaceful enjoyment of property and Article 8 of the same Act, which sets out their rights in respect to private and family life and for the home. Officers consider that the proposal would not be contrary to the provisions of the above Articles.

The application has also been considered in accordance with Horsham District Council's public sector equality duty, which seeks to prevent unlawful discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations between people in a diverse community, in accordance with Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. In this case, the proposal is not anticipated to have any potential impact from an equality perspective.

PLANNING ASSESSMENT:

Character and Appearance

Policies 32 and 33 of the HDPF seek to ensure that development promotes a high standard and quality of design in order to enhance and protect locally distinctive characters. The policies also seek to ensure that the scale, massing and appearance of development relates sympathetically with the built surroundings, landscape, open spaces and routes within and adjoining the site, including any impact on the skyline and important views.

49 Onslow Walk is a semi-detached dwelling in the built-up boundary of Broadbridge Heath, with the proposal seeking a conversion with related external alterations to the detached garage, creating a front store area and rear garden room. The garage conversion would maintain the existing external appearance of the structure, with the new window openings reflective of the main dwelling. The proposed use and external appearance is considered to be of a design, form and scale which is appropriate to the character and appearance of the existing dwelling, and which would not harm the character or appearance of the wider area. It is therefore considered that the visual impact of the proposal is acceptable and would accord with the above policies.

Impact on Neighbouring Amenity

Policy 33 of the HDPF states that permission will be granted for development that does not cause unacceptable harm to the amenity of the occupiers/users of nearby properties and land.

It is considered that the siting and layout of the proposed alterations/fenestration changes would not give rise to privacy issues, with an ancillary use not creating significant potential for harmful levels of noise or disturbance. The amenity impacts of the proposal are therefore considered acceptable and in accordance with the above policy.

Impact on Parking Provision

Policy 41 of the HDPF states that development which involves the loss of existing parking spaces will only be allowed if suitable alternative provision has been secured elsewhere, or the need for the development overrides the loss of parking and where necessary measures are in place to mitigate against the impact.

The proposal would result in the loss of a garage which is of sufficient size to accommodate a parked vehicle, with the garage providing 0.5 spaces based on parking standards. The dwellinghouse is of a size which would require 3 spaces, with the side drive capable of accommodating up to 2 parking vehicles. The proposal would therefore contribute to an existing shortfall of parking on the site. It is though considered that the remaining on-site provision would not be expected to result in a level of displaced parking which would be harmful to either highway safety or neighbouring amenity. The level of on-site parking provision which would remain is therefore considered acceptable, with the retained store section sufficient to accommodate cycles.

Water Neutrality

There is no clear or compelling evidence to suggest the nature and scale of the proposed development would result in a more intensive occupation of the dwelling necessitating an increased consumption of water that would result in a significant impact on the Arun Valley SAC, SPA and Ramsar sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The grant of planning permission would not therefore adversely affect the integrity of these sites or otherwise conflict with policy 31 of the HDPF, NPPF paragraph 180 and the Council's obligations under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

Biodiversity Net Gain

In accordance with the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024, all householder applications are current exempt from the statutory requirement to demonstrate a 10% net gain in biodiversity.

Conclusion

The proposal is considered to comply with relevant local and national planning policies and is therefore recommended for approval.

Recommendation: Application Permitted

Conditions:

2 **Standard Time Condition**: The development hereby permitted shall begin before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

3 **Regulatory Condition**: The materials to be used in the development hereby permitted shall strictly accord with those indicated on the approved plans.

Reason: To enable the Local Planning Authority to control the development in detail in the interests of visual amenity and in accordance with Policy 33 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).

NOTE TO APPLICANT

Biodiversity Net Gain Condition

Paragraph 13 of Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 states that planning permission is deemed to have been granted subject to the "biodiversity gain condition" which means development granted by this notice must not begin unless:

(a) a Biodiversity Gain Plan has been submitted to the planning authority, and
(b) the planning authority has approved the plan.

Under Regulations 4, 5, 7 & 8 of the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024 the statutory biodiversity gain condition required by Schedule 7A to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) does not apply in relation to planning permission for development which:

2. is the subject of a householder application within the meaning of article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015;

Based on the information submitted in the planning application documents, the Planning Authority considers that this permission is exempt from biodiversity net gain, and as such does not require approval of a biodiversity gain plan before development is begun.

POSITIVE AND PROACTIVE STATEMENT

Statement pursuant to Article 35 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by assessing the proposal against all material considerations, including planning policies and any representations that may have been received, in order to be able to, where possible, grant permission.

Plans list for: DC/25/1111

(The approved plans will form Condition 1 on the Decision Notice of all Permitted applications)

Schedule of plans/documents **approved**:

Plan Type	Description	Drawing Number	Received Date
Elevation plan	Elevations as Existing / Proposed	04	07.07.2025
Site plan	Site Plan	02	07.07.2025
Location plan	Location Plan	NONE	07.07.2025
Floor plan	Plans as Existing / Proposed	03	07.07.2025

DELEGATED

Case Officer sign/initial Meg Bayliss Date: 16/09/2025

Authorising Officer sign/initial Guy Everest Date: 17.09.2025