DELEGATED APPLICATIONS - ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO./ADDRESS:
DC/25/0770
Flats 1-4 Parkview, The Courtyard, London Road, Horsham , RH12 1AT

DESCRIPTION:
Replacement of the existing brown timber windows with brown uPVC windows in the same colour and style into existing openings.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY:
None identified.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE
Parkview comprises a three-storey building with access directly onto London Road together with 6 parking spaces. The area surrounding the application site is generally characterised by a mix of residential and commercial area. The site falls within the built-up area of Horsham and the Horsham Conservation Area.

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 34 - Cultural and Heritage Assets

Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Forum
Policy HB3: Character of Development
Policy HB4: Design of Development

Horsham District Local Plan (2023-40) (Regulation 19):
Policy 19: Development Quality
Policy 20: Development Principles
Policy 21: Heritage Assets and Managing Change within the Historic Environment

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:
HDC Conservation: No Objection, it would though be suggested that an aluminium window would be a more appropriate material for the design of the building and the qualities of the conservation area.

Representations:
None received.

Neighbourhood Council:
No Objection

Member Comments:
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.

Policy HB3 of the Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Plan states that development is expected to preserve and enhance the Character Area in which it is located. The design of new development should take account of local context and reflect the character and vernacular of the area, using architectural variety in form and materials, in order to avoid building design that is inappropriate to the Plan area. Policy HB4 continues that development is expected to demonstrate a high quality of design, which responds and integrate well with its surroundings.

Policy 34 of the HDPF seeks to conserve and sustain the heritage assets that are within the district. It ensures that development within conservation areas is consistent with the special character of buildings and areas of which they are located within.

Paragraph 205 of the NPPF (2023) states that "when considering the impact of proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be)." Paragraph 206 continues to state that "any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alterations or destruction, or for of development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification."

The proposal is for the replacement of the existing brown timber windows with brown uPVC windows. The replacement windows would introduce a new frame material to the building but would reflect the frame colour and glazing pattern of the existing. It is noted that the existing windows appear to be sliding sash, whereas the replacement would be top-hung outward opening casements. The proposal does though entail replacement windows to all levels of the building, which would maintain a uniform appearance, even if there is a potential time lag between the new windows being installed.

The proposal is considered sufficient to retain the existing character and appearance of the building, and similarly there would be no adverse impacts on the significance and historic interest of the wider conservation area.

It is acknowledged that the Conservation Officer has advised that aluminium may be more preferable as a frame material in this location. This is not though being proposed, and for the reasons set out above no harm has been identified from the use of PVC in the manner sought. It is not therefore considered that a refusal of planning permission due to the proposed use of PVC would be justified in this instance.

The proposal is considered to be appropriate to the character and appearance of the existing building and 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.

The replacement of the existing windows with PVC equivalents would have a neutral impact on neighbouring amenity, with no unacceptable harm identified in accordance with the above policy.

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 (BNG):

Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted by Schedule 14 of the Environment Act 2021) mandates that every development must achieve at least a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) unless the development qualifies as exempt under the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024.

The Applicant has demonstrated that the development is exempt from the requirement to achieve a minimum 10% BNG by reason of*:*

- The development qualifies as 'de minimis' under Regulation 4 of the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024

Conclusions:

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 within the Planning, Design and Heritage Statement dated 05.05.2025.

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).

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/25/0770

(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
Location & Block plan	Elevations	01	27.05.2025
Supporting Statement	Planning, Design and Heritage	NONE	08.05.2025

DELEGATED

Case Officer sign/initial Meg Bayliss Date: 16/07/2025

Authorising Officer sign/initial Guy Everest Date: 22.07.2025