Horsham District Council

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS - ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO./ADDRESS:
DC/23/1796
6 Church Mead, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3ST

DESCRIPTION:
Erection of first floor extension over existing garage

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY
None relevant

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

Steyning Neighbourhood Development Plan (SNDP) 2019-2031:
SNDP3 – Contribution to Character

REPRESENTATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS RESPONSES

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.

Parish Comments:
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
This application is for the erection of first floor extension over existing garage at 6 Church Mead, Steyning. 6 Church Mead is contemporary styled detached two story property. The property sits on Church Mead, a residential cul de sac made up of other contemporary styled detached two bedroom properties.

The application has been assessed on the basis of the submitted details, together with the planning history of the site and adjoining properties, available images and photographs supplied by the agent. These details were considered sufficient to allow the application to be properly considered and determined.

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.

SNDP3 (Contribution to Character) of the SNDP seeks to ensure that development can contribute positively towards Steyning's character and that proposals are respectful of the local amenity of the property and local area. Development should respond respectfully and sensitively to the form, scale, massing, height and material palette of neighbouring properties.

The proposal seeks to create a first-floor extension over the existing garage. The extension would match the front and rear building lines and roof form and profile of the existing building. This approach would create a balanced appearance to the resulting building which would remain in keeping with surrounding development. The proposal would result in a loss of openness at first floor level between the extended host building and neighbouring property, which has already been extended at first floor level to the side. The existing openness, which is visible from the front and rear, is not though considered to be a key characteristic of the locality, with the siting of properties from shared side boundaries variable throughout the wider locality. There would remain clear separation between the buildings with this considered sufficient to ensure no adverse impact on the character or appearance of the area.

The proposal is therefore 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 extension and the resulting relationship with adjoining properties would be sufficient to prevent any unacceptable harm to neighbouring amenity. A condition is recommended to require a side facing window be obscure glazed to prevent any potentially intrusive views, with the front and rear openings not creating any views beyond that which would be expected in a location such as this.

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.

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 **Pre-Occupation Condition:** No part of the development hereby permitted shall be occupied until the window(s) on the north elevation, as shown on drawing no. 2325-2, has been fitted with obscured glazing. The window shall be fixed shut/non-openable. Once installed the obscured glazing shall be retained permanently and the window fixed shut/non-openable thereafter.

Reason: To protect the privacy of adjacent occupiers in accordance with Policy 33 of the Horsham District Planning Framework (2015).

4 **Regulatory Condition**: The materials and finishes of all new external walls, windows and roofs of the development hereby permitted shall match in type, colour and texture those of the existing building.

Reason: 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/23/1796

(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
Roof plan	Existing and proposed	2325-5	27.09.2023
Location plan		NONE	27.09.2023
Elevation plan		2325-2	27.09.2023
Elevation & Floor plan	Existing	2325-3	27.09.2023
Block plan		2325-6	27.09.2023
Section plan		2325-1	27.09.2023

DELEGATED

Case Officer sign/initial J.Burrowes Date: 15/11/2023

Authorising Officer sign/initial Guy Everest Date: 22.11.2023