Horsham District Council

DELEGATED APPLICATIONS - ASSESSMENT SHEET

APPLICATION NO./ADDRESS:
DC/25/1123
137 Comptons Lane, Horsham, West Sussex, RH13 6AS

DESCRIPTION:
Erection of a single storey rear extension.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Horsham District Planning Framework (2015):
Policy 32 - Strategic Policy: The Quality of New Development
Policy 33 - Development Principles

Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Plan 2019-2036
Policy HB3: Character of Development
Policy HB4: Design of Development

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.

Southern Water: No objection

Neighbourhood Council Comments:
No objection

Representations:
1 letter of representation has been received *supporting* the application.

1 representation has been received, neither objecting nor supporting the application for the following reasons: -

- While there are no objections to the proposed application in principle, support is withheld pending clarification of surface water drainage arrangements.
- An underground pipe carrying surface water either originates from or crosses No. 137 along its southern boundary. This pipe discharges into a drainage ditch located behind 33 Little Comptons, which runs westward toward Millais School. The ditch is known to flood near the school, and there is concern that additional runoff could exacerbate this issue.

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:

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.

Policy HB3, Character of Development, 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 the 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. Innovation in design will be supported, however, where this demonstrably enhances the quality of the built form in a character area”.

Policy HB4, Design of Development, of the Horsham Blueprint Business Neighbourhood Plan states that – “Development is expected to demonstrate a high quality of design, which responds and integrates well with its surroundings”

The application seeks planning permission for the erection of a single storey rear extension. It is considered that the proposed extension would be seen as a coherent and sympathetic addition, which would reflect the form and detailing when viewed against the host dwelling and would be sited appropriately within the curtilage of the site. The proposed works would not be particularly visible from a public vantage point and would not therefore affect the key character of the street scene. In views from the adjoining neighbouring property, the extension is considered to be of an appropriate design, form and scale appropriate to the character and appearance of the existing dwelling and would not harm the character or appearance of the wider area.

The proposal would be a clearly subservient addition and 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 noted that a representation has been received that has raised concerns in respect of the impact of the proposal on surface water drainage arrangements. These issues are considered to be private matters, and where relevant would be addressed under separate legislation, such as the Building Regulations, and do not therefore require further consideration as part of this planning application.

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.

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 193 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 proposed elevations plan drawing numbered KAC007/07 REV P1 received 08.07.2025.

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/25/1123

Schedule of plans/documents **approved**:

Plan Type	Description	Drawing Number	Received Date
Roof plan	Proposed	KAC007/06 REV P1	08.07.2025
Location & Block plan		KAC007/01 REV P1	08.07.2025
Elevation plan	Existing	KAC007/04 REV P1	08.07.2025
Roof plan	Existing	KAC007/03 REV P1	08.07.2025
Floor plan	Existing	KAC007/02 REV P1	08.07.2025
Photos		KAC007/08 REV P1	08.07.2025
Floor plan	Proposed	KAC007/05 REV P1	08.07.2025
Elevation plan	Proposed	KAC007/07 REV P1	08.07.2025

DELEGATED

Case Officer sign/initial Marie Riggs Date: 26.08.2025

Authorising Officer sign/initial RHERMITAGE Date: 01.09.2025