

Location **36 Woolmead Avenue London NW9 7AY**

Reference: **15/04227/HSE**

Received: 7th July 2015

Accepted: 13th July 2015

Ward: West Hendon

Expiry 7th September 2015

Applicant: Mrs Uzma Khan

Proposal: Retention of single storey rear extension and proposed first floor rear extension

Recommendation: Approve subject to conditions

- 1 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: 36WOOL/0715/01 Rev A; 36WOOL/0715/02 Rev A.

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning and so as to ensure that the development is carried out fully in accordance with the plans as assessed in accordance with Policies CS NPPF and CS1 of the Local Plan Core Strategy DPD (adopted September 2012) and Policy DM01 of the Local Plan Development Management Policies DPD (adopted September 2012).

- 2 This development must be begun within three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 3 The materials to be used in the external surfaces of the building(s) shall match those used in the existing building(s).

Reason: To safeguard the visual amenities of the building and surrounding area in accordance with Policy DM01 of the Development Management Policies DPD (adopted September 2012) and Policies CS NPPF and CS1 of the Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted September 2012).

- 4 Notwithstanding the provisions of any development order made under Section 59 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order) no windows or doors, other than those expressly authorised by this permission, shall be placed at any time in the side elevation(s), of the extension(s) hereby approved, facing the neighbouring properties.

Reason: To safeguard the privacy and amenities of occupiers of adjoining residential properties in accordance with policy DM01 of the Development Management Policies DPD (adopted September 2012).

Informative(s):

- 1 In accordance with paragraphs 186 and 187 of the NPPF, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) takes a positive and proactive approach to development proposals, focused on solutions. The LPA has produced planning policies and written guidance to assist applicants when submitting applications. These are all available on the Council's website. A pre-application advice service is also offered. The LPA has negotiated with the applicant/agent where necessary during the application process to ensure that the proposed development is in accordance with the Development Plan.

Officer's Assessment

APPLICATION CALLED TO COMMITTEE BY CLLR ADAM LANGLEBEN - Concern about loss of light to neighbours

This application was deferred from the Hendon Area Planning Committee dated 17th September 2015 so that officers can seek clarification on the submitted plans.

The application, as originally submitted, showed the ground floor rear extension with a depth of 5.8m. The extension, in fact, as built has a depth of 6m. given the inaccuracies in the plans the application was deferred from the committee to allow officers to request amended plans and the opportunity to reconsult the neighbours on the amended plans.

Plans have been amended showing a 6m deep extension, which reflects what's been built on site. Neighbours have been reconsulted for further 28 days however no additional responses have been received.

1. Site Description

The application site is a two storey semi-detached dwellinghouse located on Woodmead Ave; a residential road which lies within the West Hendon ward of the South area.

The property is not listed and does not fall within a designated conservation area.

2. Site History

Reference: H/02604/14

Address: 36 Woolmead Avenue, London, NW9 7AY

Decision: Prior Approval Not Required

Decision Date: 20 June 2014

Description: Single storey rear extension with a proposed maximum depth of 6 metres from original rear wall, eaves height of 2.85 metres and maximum height of 2.95 metres.

3. Proposal

The application seeks to retain the ground floor rear extension as built; measuring 6m deep across the full width of the property

Consent is also sought for a first floor rear extension; measuring 2.9m in depth and set away 2.5m from the adjoining boundary and set away 2.3m from the non-adjoining property.

4. Public Consultation

Consultation letters were sent to 3 neighbouring properties.

3 responses have been received, comprising 3 letters of objection

The objections received can be summarised as follows:

- loss of light and sun
- invade neighbouring privacy
- the ground floor extension is blocking light to neighbouring windows

5. Planning Considerations

5.1 Policy Context

National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Practice Guidance

The determination of planning applications is made mindful of Central Government advice and the Local Plan for the area. It is recognised that Local Planning Authorities must determine applications in accordance with the statutory Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise, and that the planning system does not exist to protect the private interests of one person against another.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published on 27 March 2012. This is a key part of the Governments reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to promote sustainable growth.

The NPPF states that 'good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, is indivisible from good planning, and should contribute positively to making places better for people'. The NPPF retains a presumption in favour of sustainable development. This applies unless any adverse impacts of a development would 'significantly and demonstrably' outweigh the benefits.

The Mayor's London Plan 2015

The London Development Plan is the overall strategic plan for London, and it sets out a fully integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital to 2050. It forms part of the development plan for Greater London and is recognised in the NPPF as part of the development plan.

The London Plan provides a unified framework for strategies that are designed to ensure that all Londoners benefit from sustainable improvements to their quality of life.

Barnet's Local Plan (2012)

Barnet's Local Plan is made up of a suite of documents including the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents. Both were adopted in September 2012.

- Relevant Core Strategy Policies: CS NPPF, CS1, CS5.
- Relevant Development Management Policies: DM01, DM02.

The Council's approach to extensions as set out in Policy DM01 is to minimise their impact on the local environment and to ensure that occupiers of new developments as well as neighbouring occupiers enjoy a high standard of amenity. Policy DM01 states that all development should represent high quality design and should be designed to allow for adequate daylight, sunlight, privacy and outlook for adjoining occupiers. Policy DM02 states that where appropriate, development will be expected to demonstrate compliance to minimum amenity standards and make a positive contribution to the Borough. The development standards set out in Policy DM02 are regarded as key for Barnet to deliver the highest standards of urban design.

Supplementary Planning Documents

Residential Design Guidance SPD (adopted April 2013)

- Sets out information for applicants to help them design an extension to their property which would receive favourable consideration by the Local Planning Authority and was the subject of separate public consultation. The SPD states that large areas of Barnet are characterised by relatively low density suburban housing with an attractive mixture of terrace, semi detached and detached houses. The Council is committed to protecting, and where possible enhancing the character of the borough's residential areas and retaining an attractive street scene.
- States that extensions should normally be subordinate to the original house, respect the original building and should not be overly dominant. Extensions should normally be consistent in regard to the form, scale and architectural style of the original building which can be achieved through respecting the proportions of the existing house and using an appropriate roof form.
- In respect of amenity, states that extensions should not be overbearing or unduly obtrusive and care should be taken to ensure that they do not result in harmful loss of outlook, appear overbearing, or cause an increased sense of enclosure to adjoining properties. They should not reduce light to neighbouring windows to habitable rooms or cause significant overshadowing, and should not look out of place, overbearing or intrusive when viewed from surrounding areas.

Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (adopted April 2013)

- Provides detailed guidance that supplements policies in the adopted Local Plan, and sets out how sustainable development will be delivered in Barnet.

5.2 Main issues for consideration

The main issues for consideration in this case are:

- Whether harm would be caused to the character and appearance of the existing building, the street scene and the wider locality;
- Whether harm would be caused to the living conditions of neighbouring residents.

5.3 Assessment of proposals

The Council's approach to extensions as set out in Policy DM01 is to minimise their impact on the local environment and to ensure that occupiers of new developments as well as neighbouring occupiers enjoy a high standard of amenity.

Policy DM01 of the Development Management Policies (Adopted) 2012 states that all development should represent high quality design and should be designed to allow for adequate daylight, sunlight, privacy and outlook for adjoining occupiers.

Policy DM02 states that where appropriate, development will be expected to demonstrate compliance to minimum amenity standards and that development makes a positive contribution to the borough. The development standards set out in Policy DM02: Development Standards are regarded as key for Barnet to deliver the highest standards of urban design.

Policy CS5 states that the Council 'will ensure that development in Barnet respects local context and distinctive local character creating places and buildings of high quality design'.

The Council's adopted SPD 'Residential Design Guidance' (2013) states that extensions should normally be subordinate to the original house, respect the original building and should not be overly dominant; extensions should normally be consistent in regard to the

form, scale and architectural style of the original building which can be achieved through respecting the proportions of the existing house and using an appropriate roof form.

Para 14.13 of the SPD states that where there is a consistent and coherent architectural character, the extension should not detract from it. Any extension should sit comfortably with the main building and with neighbouring houses.

The property was granted Prior Approval with neighbouring consultation for a 6m deep single storey rear extension; this has since been built on site. Although objections have been received in respect of the ground floor extension, it should be noted that the Prior Approval for Householder Extensions application goes through a neighbouring consultation and at the time of the application no objections had been received.

This application seeks consent for the first floor extension.

The limited depth of the extension and its distance to the rear facing first floor windows at both neighbouring properties is deemed sufficient enough as to not cause a detrimental impact on neighbouring amenity in regards to loss of light or overshadowing. Furthermore, given the orientation of the property and its relationship to the non-adjoining property, the proposal is not deemed to result in the loss of enjoyment of the neighbouring garden. In addition to this, the non-adjoining property is set slightly rearward than the host property and therefore the proposal would not extend considerably further rearward than the rear wall of this neighbouring property.

The proposal, by reason of its size, design and considerable set down from the main ridge height, is deemed to result in a subordinate addition to the property whilst respecting the original proportions of the dwelling. In this regard, the proposal is not considered to adversely impact the character and appearance of the application site or surrounding area.

It should be noted that it is recommended that a condition be attached to the decision to ensure first floor side facing windows cannot be inserted without consent; this is to ensure that the amenities of both neighbouring occupiers are not compromised in regards to overlooking and loss of privacy.

5.4 Response to Public Consultation

Addressed in report above.

6. Equality and Diversity Issues

The proposal does not conflict with either Barnet Council's Equalities Policy or the commitments set in the Equality Scheme and supports the Council in meeting its statutory equality responsibilities.

7. Conclusion

Having taken all material considerations into account, it is considered that subject to compliance with the attached conditions, the proposed development would have an acceptable impact on the character and appearance of the application site, the street scene and the locality. The development is not considered to have an adverse impact on the amenities of neighbouring occupiers. This application is therefore recommended for approval.

