

LOCATION: 201 The Vale, London, NW11 8TN
REFERENCE: F/01540/12 **Received:** 19 April 2012
Accepted: 19 April 2012
WARD(S): Childs Hill **Expiry:** 14 June 2012
Final Revisions:

APPLICANT: Mrs Zangeneh
PROPOSAL: Conversion of existing dwelling house into 2no self-contained residential units following rear and side extensions to roof including dormer windows to facilitate a loft conversion. Part single, part two storey rear and side extensions. New front porch. Provision of off-street parking and hardstanding.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Subject to Conditions

- 1 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Site plan; PP/254/01; PP/254/02; PP/254/03; PP/254/04.
Reason:
For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.
- 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 the surrounding area.
- 4 The roof of the extension hereby permitted shall only be used in connection with the repair and maintenance of the building and shall at no time be converted to or used as a balcony, roof garden or similar amenity or sitting out area.
Reason:
To ensure that the amenities of the occupiers of adjoining properties are not prejudiced by overlooking.
- 5 Before the building hereby permitted is occupied the proposed window(s) in the side elevation facing 199 and 203 The Vale shall be glazed with obscure glass only and shall be permanently retained as such thereafter and shall be permanently fixed shut with only a fanlight opening.
Reason:
To safeguard the privacy and amenities of occupiers of adjoining residential properties.
- 6 Before the development hereby permitted commences, details of enclosures and screened facilities for the storage of recycling containers and wheeled refuse bins or other refuse storage containers where applicable, together with a satisfactory point of collection shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and shall be provided at the site in accordance with the approved details before the development is occupied.
Reason:
To ensure a satisfactory appearance for the development and satisfactory accessibility; and to protect the amenities of the area.
- 7 Prior to the occupation of the units, copies of Pre-completion Sound Insulation Test Certificates shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority, confirming

compliance with Requirement E of the Building Regulations 2010 (or any subsequent amendment in force at the time of implementation of the permission).

Reason:

To protect the amenities of future and neighbouring residential occupiers.

- 8 No development shall take place until details of the arrangements to meet the obligation for education, health and library facilities and the associated monitoring costs have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason:

To ensure the proper planning of the area and to comply with policies CS2, CS8, CS13, IMP1 and IMP2 of the adopted Unitary Development Plan and the adopted Supplementary Planning Documents "Contributions to Education", "Contributions to Health Facilities", "Contributions to Libraries" and "Planning Obligations".

- 9 Before the development hereby permitted commences on site, details of all extraction and ventilation equipment shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority and implemented in accordance with agreed details before the use is commenced.

Reason:

To ensure that the proposed development does not prejudice the enjoyment or amenities of occupiers of adjoining residential properties.

- 10 The level of noise emitted from any plant that may be installed shall be at least 5dB(A) below the background level, as measured from any point 1 metre outside the window of any room of a neighbouring residential property.

If the noise emitted has a distinguishable, discrete continuous note (whine, hiss, screech, hum) and/or distinct impulse (bangs, clicks, clatters, thumps), then it shall be at least 10dB(A) below the background level, as measured from any point 1 metre outside the window of any room of a neighbouring residential property.

Reason:

To ensure that the proposed development does not prejudice the amenities of occupiers of neighbouring properties.

- 11 Before development commences, a report should be carried out by a competent acoustic consultant and submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval, that assesses the likely noise impacts from the development of the ventilation/extraction plant if any is to be installed. The report shall also clearly outline mitigation measures for the development to reduce these noise impacts to acceptable levels.

It should include all calculations and baseline data, and be set out so that the Local Planning Authority can fully audit the report and critically analyse the contents and recommendations. The approved measures shall be implemented in their entirety before (any of the units are occupied / the use commences).

Reason:

To ensure that the amenities of neighbouring premises are protected from noise from the development.

- 12 The floor plan layout and rear garden amenity area as shown on the hereby approved plans must not be changed without the prior written permission of the local planning authority.

Reason:

- To safeguard the amenities of neighbouring occupiers and the general locality.
- 13 Before the development hereby permitted is occupied details for the boundary treatment for the subdivision of the rear garden shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and implemented as agreed and that area shall not thereafter be built on or used for any purpose other than amenity space for the hereby approved flats.

Reason:

To ensure that sufficient external amenity space is provided for the flats without detriment to future occupiers.

INFORMATIVE(S):

- 1 The reasons for this grant of planning permission or other planning related decision are as follows: -
- i) The proposed development accords with strategic planning guidance and policies as set out in The Mayor's London Plan: July 2011 and the Adopted Barnet Unitary Development Plan (2006).
In particular the following polices are relevant:

National Policy:
National Planning Policy Framework

London Plan (2011):
3.4, 3.5A, 3.5B, 7.4A

Adopted Barnet Unitary Development Plan (2006):
GSD, GParking, GCS1, GBEnv1, GBEnv2, D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D9, D11, M8, M10, M11, M12, H16, H17, H18, H23, CS2, CS8, CS13, IMP1, IMP2.

Local Development Framework:
Core Strategy (Examination in Public version) 2012 – CS NPPF, CS1, CS4, CS5, CS9, CS10, CS13, CS15.
Development Management Policies (Examination in Public version) 2012 – DM01, DM02, DM13, DM17.

- ii) The proposal is acceptable for the following reason(s): -

Having taken all material considerations into account, it is considered that the proposed development would be in keeping with the character and appearance of the surrounding area. The proposed development is not considered to have a detrimental impact on the residential amenities of neighbouring developments and would provided good quality residential accommodation which is at sort supply.

The proposed development includes provision for appropriate contributions in accordance with Regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010.

- 2 Any development or conversion which necessitates the removal, changing, or creation of an address or addresses must be officially registered by the Council through the formal 'Street Naming and Numbering' process.

The Council of the London Borough of Barnet is the Street Naming and

Numbering Authority and is the only organisation that can create or change addresses within its boundaries. Applications are the responsibility of the developer or householder who wish to have an address created or amended.

Occupiers of properties which have not been formally registered can face a multitude of issues such as problems with deliveries, rejection of banking / insurance applications, problems accessing key council services and most importantly delays in an emergency situation.

Further details and the application form can be downloaded from: <http://www.barnet.gov.uk/naming-and-numbering-applic-form.pdf> or requested from the Street Naming and Numbering Team via email: street.naming@barnet.gov.uk or by telephoning: 0208 359 7294.

1. MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS

National Planning Policy Framework:

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 London Plan is recognised in the NPPF as part of the development plan.

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."

NPPF retains 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 July 2011:

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 2031. It forms part of the development plan for Greater London.

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.

Policy 3.4 of the London Plan states that development should optimise housing output for different types of location taking into account local context and character, the design principles set out in Chapter 7 of the London Plan and public transport capacity.

Policy 3.5A states that housing developments should be of the highest quality internally, externally and in relation to their context and the wider environment taking account of strategic policies to protect and enhance London's residential environment and attractiveness as a place to live.

Policy 3.5B indicates that the design of all new housing developments should enhance the quality of local places taking into account, amongst other things, physical context, local character and density. Table 3.3 sets out minimum space standards for new dwellings.

Policy 7.4A states that, development should have regard to the form, function, and structure of an area, place or street, and the scale, mass and orientation of surrounding buildings. The policy goes on to say at 7.4B that buildings should provide a high quality design response that, amongst other things, is informed by the surrounding historic environment.

Relevant Unitary Development Plan Policies:

The statutory plan for the Borough is the Barnet UDP. This was adopted on 18 May 2006, replacing the original UDP adopted in 1991.

On 13 May 2009 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government issued a Direction "saving" 183 of the 234 policies within the UDP.

Relevant policies: GSD, GParking, GCS1, GBEnv1, GBEnv2, D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, D9, D11, M8, M10, M11, M12, H16, H17, H18, H23, CS2, CS8, CS13, IMP1, IMP2.

In June 2005 the Council published its "Three Strands Approach", setting out a vision and direction for future development, regeneration and planning within the Borough. The approach, which is based around the three strands of Protection, Enhancement and Growth, will protect Barnet's high quality suburbs and deliver new housing and successful sustainable communities whilst protecting employment opportunities. The second strand of the approach, "Enhancement", provides strong planning policy protection for preserving the character and openness of lower density suburbs and conservation areas. The Three Strands Approach will form the "spatial vision" that will underpin the Local Development Framework.

As part of its emerging Local Development Framework the Council has adopted (October 2006), following consultation, a Supplementary Planning Document relating to Planning Obligations. This highlights the legislation and Barnet's approach in requiring contributions from new development.

On 21 February 2008, following public consultation, a Supplementary Planning Document “Contributions to Education” was adopted by the Council. The SPD, provides guidance and advice in relation to adopted planning policy to secure contributions towards education needs generated by new residential development. The contributions were increased on 1 August 2009.

On 21 February 2008 the Council also adopted following public consultation, a Supplementary Planning Document “Contributions to Library Services”. The SPD covers the issues relating to the provision by the London Borough of Barnet of library and related cultural/learning facilities and the role of S106 planning obligations in achieving this. The SPD sets out the contributions that will have to be provided by developers for each proposed new unit of residential accommodation.

On 6 July 2009, following public consultation, the Council adopted a Supplementary Planning Document “Contributions to Health Facilities from Development”. The SPD provides detailed guidance that supplements policies in the UDP and sets out the Council’s approach to securing contributions for health facilities in order to address additional needs from new development.

The Council has also adopted (June 2007), following public consultation, an SPD “Sustainable Design and Construction”. The SPD provides detailed guidance that supplements policies in the UDP, and sets out how sustainable development will be delivered in Barnet. Part 4 recognises that noise can be a significant nuisance, and can undermine quality of life. In order to meet standards for internal noise appropriate levels of insulation will be required. Paragraph 4.16 indicates that the Council requires the acoustic performance of party walls and floors between dwellings to be designed to exceed the minimum requirements set out in Part E of the Building Regulations. Part 6 of the SPD relates to generic environmental requirements to ensure that new development within Barnet meets sufficiently high environmental and design standards.

Core Strategy (Examination in Public version) 2012:

Barnet’s emerging Local Plan is made up of a suite of documents including the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD). Until the Local Plan is complete, 183 policies within the adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) remain. The replacement of these 183 policies is set out in both the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD.

The Core Strategy sets the vision, core objectives and strategic policies for Barnet. Barnet’s Local Plan is at an advanced stage following submission in August / September 2011. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (para 216) sets out the weight that can be given to emerging policies as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Relevant Core Strategy Policies: CS NPPF, CS1, CS4, CS5, CS9, CS10, CS13, CS15.

The Development Management Policies document provides the borough wide planning policies that implement the Core Strategy. These policies will be used for day-to-day decision making.

Barnet's Local Plan is at an advanced stage following submission in August / September 2011. Therefore weight can be given to it as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Relevant Development Management Policies: DM01, DM02, DM13, DM17.

Relevant Planning History:

Application:	Planning	Number:	F/00876/11
Validated:	01/03/2011	Type:	192
Status:	DEC	Date:	15/06/2011
Summary:	LW	Case Officer:	Elizabeth Thomas
Description:	Extensions to roof including hip to gable and rear dormer window and rooflight windows to the front elevation to facilitate a loft conversion. Single storey rear extension. Single storey side extension. New front porch. New outbuilding in rear garden.		

Application:	Planning	Number:	F/01171/11
Validated:	01/04/2011	Type:	APF
Status:	WDN	Date:	02/06/2011
Summary:	WIT	Case Officer:	Elizabeth Thomas
Description:	Conversion of property into 3no self-contained residential units following extension to roof including hip to gable and rear dormer window to facilitate a loft conversion. Part single, part two storey rear extension. Single storey side extension. New front porch. Provision of off-street parking and hardstanding.		

Application:	Planning	Number:	F/03990/11
Validated:	26/09/2011	Type:	APF
Status:	DEC	Date:	13/01/2012
Summary:	APC	Case Officer:	Elizabeth Thomas
Description:	Part single, part two storey side and rear extension. New ground floor front porch.		

Consultations and Views Expressed:

Neighbours Consulted:	33	Replies:	3
Neighbours Wishing To Speak	1		

The objections raised may be summarised as follows:

- Proposals out of keeping with area
- Detrimental to peace in the area
- Concerns about short term tenancies not contributing to community
- Additional traffic and pressures on parking
- Scale and appearance

- Noise and disturbance
- Dust during construction

Date of Site Notice: 03 May 2012

2. PLANNING APPRAISAL

Site Description and Surroundings:

The application property is a semi detached dwelling located in the Childs Hill ward. The property is in a predominately residential location and does not fall within a conservation area. Works have been carried out under permitted development including an outbuilding in the rear garden.

Proposal:

The application relates to the conversion of existing dwelling house into 2no self-contained residential units following rear and side extensions to roof including dormer windows to facilitate a loft conversion. Part single, part two storey rear and side extensions. New front porch. Provision of off-street parking and hardstanding.

Planning Considerations:

Planning permission has previously been approved on site for extensions to the property comprising of part single, part two storey side and rear extension and new ground floor front porch. The application F/03990/11 was approved at committee in January 2012. The current application now seeks to convert the property into 2 self contained units with the addition of a side dormer.

The principle of converting the premises into two self contained flats would not harm the residential character of the area and would not represent the over intensive use of the property. There are examples of conversion permissions in the The Vale and Golders Green Estate as follows:

- 106 The Vale - in 3 flats in 2010
- 237 The Vale -2 flats in 2005
- 54 Cumbrian Gardens - 3 flats in 2007
- 34 Pennine Drive - 2 flats in 2010
- 77 Pennine Drive - 2 flats in 2009
- 71 Pennine Drive - 2 flats in 2011
- 57 Cleveland Gardens - 2 flats in 2011
- 10 Cleveland Gardens - 2 flats in 2011
- 145 Cheviot Gardens - 2 flats in 2011
- 5 Cheviot Gardens - 2 flats in 2007
- 80 Cheviot Gardens - 3 flats in 2009
- 76 Cotswold Gardens - 2 flats in 2011
- 56 Cotswold Gardens - 2 flats in 2009

- 124 Cotswold Gardens - 2 flats in 2007
- 44 Cotswold Gardens - 2 flats in 2011

The Borough has an attractive and high quality environment that the Council wishes to protect and enhance. It is therefore considered necessary to carefully assess both the design and form of new development to ensure that it is compatible with the established character of an area that is defined by the type and size of dwellings, the layout, intensity, and relationship with one another and their surroundings. Proposals involving the redevelopment of sites in residential localities are required to reflect the particular character of the street in which the site is located and the scale and proportion of the houses.

The Council recognises that flat developments can make an important contribution to housing provision, in particular smaller units and that they can make more efficient use of urban land, however they normally involve an intensification of use creating more activity and can adversely affect the appearance of a street through, for example, the provision of car parking and refuse facilities, that can have an unacceptable impact on the established character of an area.

Within Chapter 2 of the Core Strategy, which is a material consideration in the determination of this application, the Council state the following:

"The conversion of existing dwellings into flats can have a cumulative effect that damages the quality of the environment and detracts from the character of established residential areas. Conversions may be appropriate in certain types of property or street but can harm the character by changing the function of a neighbourhood through more activity which increases noise and disturbance and thus impacts on amenity. This intensification of use can often involve more people movements, increased car movements, more rubbish to be collected and more deliveries. Flat conversions must therefore be situated in appropriate locations characterised by housing that has already undergone significant conversions or redevelopment to small flatted accommodation. Conversions in roads characterised by unconverted houses will not normally be considered appropriate."

The proposal is not considered to be out of character within its context and would not result in harm to the surrounding area.

Living conditions of future occupiers

The proposed units comply with the space standards for new development outlined in Policy 3.5 (table 3.3) of the London Plan July 2011. The proposal is considered to provide adequate internal space for the future occupiers.

Sound insulation between units should be incorporated into the scheme which should be in compliance with Requirement E of the Building Regulations 2010 (or any subsequent amendment in force at the time of implementation of the permission). This will be enforced by condition.

Living conditions of neighbouring occupiers

One of the Council's key objectives is to improve the quality of life for people living in the Borough and therefore development that results in unacceptable harm to neighbours' amenity is unlikely to be supported. Good neighbourliness is a yardstick against which proposals can be measured.

Unitary Development Plan Policies D5 seek, amongst other things, to ensure adequate outlook for occupiers adjoining new development, and that new residential developments should provide and preserve adequate residential amenity, however the policies, and the preamble in the preceding paragraphs, do not offer any guidance for assessment. It is therefore necessary for a judgement to be made by the decision maker with regard to this issue.

The proposed extensions to the property are considered to be acceptable and appropriate. The extensions proposed will not result in an overdevelopment of the site and are considered to harmonise well with the existing property. There are other examples in the surrounding area where two storey side extensions have been implemented and therefore this element of the proposal is not considered to be harmful to the streetscene. By virtue of the bulk, design, size, height and siting of the proposed extensions it is not considered that there will be any loss of amenity to the neighbouring residential occupiers. A condition will be placed on the application to ensure side windows are obscure glazed to prevent any overlooking or loss of privacy to the neighbouring residential occupiers.

Other matters

In accordance with the Council's Supplementary Planning Documents in relation to Health, Education and Libraries, the proposed development would require a financial contribution (plus associated monitoring costs) towards health, educational places/library provision within the borough. This matter is conditioned.

The provision of 2 parking spaces meets the Council's maximum standards.

3. COMMENTS ON GROUNDS OF OBJECTIONS

All planning related matters are considered to be covered in the above appraisal.

4. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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

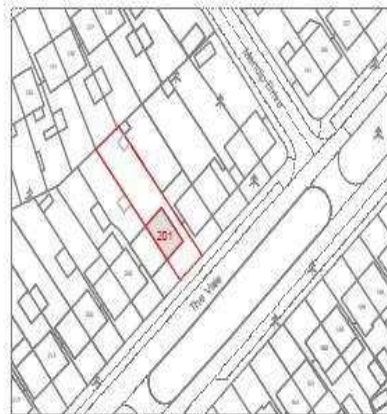
5. CONCLUSION

Having taken all material considerations into account, it is considered that the proposed development would be in keeping with the character and appearance of

the surrounding area. The proposed development is not considered to have a detrimental impact on the residential amenities of neighbouring developments and would provide good quality residential accommodation which is in short supply. It is recommended that the application be **APPROVED** subject to conditions.

SITE LOCATION PLAN: 201 The Vale, London, NW11 8TN

REFERENCE: F/01540/12



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