

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...William Thompson.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
26/01787/FPH	Single storey side extension, erection of front entrance porch, and insertion of additional front and rear roof lights. Alterations to existing fenestration.	Little Almshoe House Little Almshoe Lane St Ippolyts Hitchin Hertfordshire SG4 7NP

Submitted Plan Nos

1160-01 1160-02 1160-03 1160-04 1160-05 1 1160-06 2 1160-07 3 1160-08 4 1160-09 1160-10
1160-PL01 1160-PL02 1160-PL03 1160-PL04 1160-PL05 1 1160-PL06 2 1160-PL07 3 1160-PL08A 4

1.0 Policies

D1	Sustainable design
D2	House exts, replcmnt dwellings outbuild
D3	Protecting living conditions
T2	Parking
SP5	Countryside and Green Belt
SECN13	Protecting Green Belt Land
SECN14	Achieving well-designed places
SECN5	Meeting the challenge of Climate Change

2.0 **Relevant Site History**

2.1 None relevant

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 **Neighbour Consultation** – None received

3.2 **St Ippolyts Parish Council** – No objection

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The application site accommodates Little Almshoe House, a semi-detached property. It is attached to Gidley Cottage. The site is located to the south side of Little Almshoe Lane. The site is brushed over by the Green Belt.

4.2 **Proposal**

- 4.2.1 Single storey side extension, erection of front entrance porch, and insertion of additional front and rear roof lights. Alterations to existing fenestration.

4.3 **Key Issues**

- 4.3.1 The key issues for consideration are as follows:

- The acceptability of the design of the proposed development and its impact on the character and appearance of the area.
- The impact of the proposed development on the living conditions of neighbouring properties.
- Access and parking matters.
- The impact of the proposed development on the environment.

Principle - Green Belt

- 4.3.2 The site is within the Green Belt as allocated within the Local Plan. Policy GB6 of the NPPF advises that significant weight should be given to any harm to the Green Belt that arises from development unless Very Special Circumstances can be demonstrated to outweigh this harm. Policy GB7 of the NPPF advises on the categories of development deemed not inappropriate in the Green Belt. Exception b) advises *“The reuse, extension, alteration or replacement of an existing building, provided that the existing building is of permanent and substantial construction, is lawful in planning terms, and any extension or alteration will not result in a disproportionate increase in size compared to the original building. In the case of proposals for a replacement building, it should be for the same use and not materially larger than the one it replaces;”*.
- 4.3.3 Given the additional floorspace area from the extension and porch, the proposal would present an extension to an existing building that would not result in a disproportionate addition over the original building, by virtue of its form, layout and quantum of floorspace in relation to the original dwelling. The development would not constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt.
- 4.3.4 Policy GB2 of the NPPF states the five purposes of the Green Belt. In my opinion, the development does not contradict with any of the five purposes. Given the above, the proposal is not inappropriate development in accordance with Section 13 of the NPPF and is therefore compliant with Policy SP5 of the Local Plan.

Design and Appearance:

- 4.3.5 Policy D1 of the Local Plan requires that development proposals respond positively to the site's local context. Policy D2 of the Local Plan requires extensions to houses and outbuildings to incorporate a design that is sympathetic to the main dwelling in terms of its scale, form and orientation and does not harm the character and appearance of the

locality around the site. These policies are broadly consistent with Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 4.3.6 The proposed front porch would be modest in scale and have materials to match existing. The proposed single storey side extension would have a width of 10.0m, a depth of 8.55m and would have a flat roof with a height of 3.3m. The proposed external materials are set to match existing. The proposed alterations to fenestration include 3no. new rooflights, 2no. new first-floor windows which are currently bricked over and other limited alterations. The proposal would be minimally visible from the public realm. The proposal would be sympathetic and subservient to the dwelling.
- 4.3.7 In my view, the proposal is considered to be acceptable in terms of the material palette, massing, siting and roof design and would, therefore, not cause harm to the character and appearance of the dwelling or streetscene. The proposal is considered to comply with Policies D1 and D2 of the NHLP and Section 14 of the NPPF.

Impact on Neighbouring Properties:

- 4.3.8 A core planning principle set out in the NPPF is to always seek to secure a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings. This principle is reflected in the provisions of Policy D3 of the NHLP.
- 4.3.9 Regarding neighbour amenity, the development is set away from all boundary lines with no material increase in overlooking and acceptable in scale. It is considered that the proposed development would not result in an unacceptable level of harm to amenity, as to be objectionable, in terms of overdominance, shading or loss of privacy.
- 4.3.10 This development is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy D3 of the NHLP and Section 14 of the NPPF.

Highways and Parking:

- 4.3.11 The development does not include an increase in the number of bedrooms. The application site would maintain sufficient parking for a minimum of 2no. spaces. Therefore, regarding Policy T2 of the NHLP, no parking issues would arise from the proposal.

Environmental Implications

- 4.3.12 The proposed development is not large enough in scale to cause significant implications for the local environment in terms of carbon emissions and therefore would be generally in compliance with Section 5 of the NPPF.

Biodiversity Net Gain:

- 4.3.13 This is a form of development which is exempt from BNG Legislation, defined under article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 due it falling under the scope of the 'de minimis' exemption.

4.4 **Conclusion**

4.4.1 In the absence of material planning reasons to the contrary it is my view that planning permission is **GRANTED**.

4.5 **Alternative Options**

4.5.1 N/A

4.6 **Pre-Commencement Conditions**

4.6.1 N/A

5.0 **Recommendation**

5.1 That planning permission be **GRANTED** subject to the following conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 3 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with the provisions of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out wholly in accordance with the details specified in the application and supporting approved documents and plans listed above.

Reason: To ensure the development is carried out in accordance with details which form the basis of this grant of permission.

3. The extension(s) hereby permitted shall be built in external materials to match the existing dwellinghouse unless otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA.

Reason: To protect the visual amenities of the locality and to comply with Policies D1 and D2 of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011 to 2031.

Proactive Statement:

Planning permission has been granted for this proposal. Discussion with the applicant to seek an acceptable solution was not necessary in this instance. The Council has therefore acted proactively in line with the requirements of the Framework (paragraph 38) and in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015.

Signed <i>S. Kasparian</i> Sarah Kasparian	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Determining Officer Date: 17 September 2026	