

DELEGATED FILE NOTE

CASE OFFICER: ...Vicki Wood.....

APPLICATION REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DEVELOPMENT	APPLICATION SITE
25/02502/FPH	Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear extension.	18 Dixies Close Ashwell Baldock Hertfordshire SG7 5QN

Submitted Plan Nos

Location Plan Block Plan GAP0925.PL01 GAP0925.PL02 GAP0925.PL10 GAP0925.PL11 GAP0925.PL12

1.0 Policies

1.0 **Local and National Policy**

1.1 **National Planning Policy Framework 2024 (NPPF)**

Section 2 – Achieving sustainable development

Section 12 – Achieving well-designed places

Section 14 - Meeting the challenges of climate change, flooding and coastal change

Section 16 – Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

1.2 **North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 (NHLP)**

Strategic Policies

Policy SP1 – Sustainable Development in North Hertfordshire

Policy SP2 – Settlement Hierarchy and Spatial Distribution

Policy SP9 – Design and Sustainability

Policy SP13 – Historic environment

Development Management Policies

Policy D1 – Sustainable design

Policy D2 – House extensions, replacement dwellings and outbuildings

Policy D3 – Protecting living conditions

Policy HE1 – Designated heritage assets

Policy HE4 – Archaeology

1.3 **Ashwell Neighbourhood Plan 2021**

ASH1 Location of development

ASH3 Character of development

ASH 4 Design of development

ASH6 Environmentally sustainable design

2.0 **Relevant Site History**

2.1 None.

3.0 **Representations**

3.1 **Press, Site and Neighbour Consultation** – None received.

3.2 **Ashwell Parish Council** – No objection but request neighbour's comments under a different application be considered re: overlooking.

3.3 **HCC Archaeology** – No objection.

4.0 **Planning Considerations**

4.1 **Site and Surroundings**

4.1.1 The site lies on the north side of Dixies Close which is a residential estate east of Bear Lane and south of Back Street and is within the Ashwell Conservation Area. The north side of Dixies Close lies at a lower level than properties on the south side of Dixies Close which means the site is positioned higher than properties to the north in The Rickyard and Back Street.

4.1.2 The property comprises of two-storey dwelling which benefits from an existing rear extension and driveway with a single garage to the east set back from the footprint of the dwelling. Gardens exist to the front and rear of the dwelling. Sited alongside the garage is a similar garage associated with the neighbouring property no.16, Dixies Close. The properties have a uniform frontage facing Dixies Close with a red brick finish.

4.1.2 Ashwell is a category A village where development within the settlement boundary is generally acceptable subject to policy requirements.

4.2 **Proposal**

4.2.1 Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear extension.

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 resultant impact on the character and appearance of the Conservation Area.
- The impact that the proposed development would have on the living conditions of neighbouring properties.
- The impact that the proposed development would have on car parking provision in the area.
- The impact that the proposed development would have on the environment.

Design

4.3.2 The objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) include those seeking to secure the creation of high quality, beautiful and sustainable buildings and places (Section 12 – Achieving well-designed places). Paragraph 131 of the NPPF states that *“Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities”*. In this regard, Policy D1 and D2 of the Local Plan are consistent with the objectives set out within the NPPF.

- 4.3.3 The existing single storey flat roofed rear extension extends 5.6 metres from the rear elevation of the dwelling having a width of 2.4 metres. The neighbouring property to the west, no.20 Dixies Close has a similar extension. Following demolition of the existing extension, the development would see the construction of a single-storey rear extension to form additional habitable accommodation. The extension would project 4.5 metres from the rear elevation of the dwelling having a width of 5.7 metres with a mono pitch roof design to a total height of 3.1 metres. The extension would be set in from the east side flank elevation of the dwelling. Due to the proximity of the neighbouring dwelling to the east and separation distance from the highway, I am satisfied that there would be no impact to the street scene as a result of the proposed development. Openings would comprise of a window to the east elevation and a set of bi-folding doors to the rear elevation with a slim full-length window to either side of the doors with two velux rooflights. Materials are shown to be brickwork to the external wall finish and roof tiles, both to match the existing dwelling whilst window and door frames would be an anthracite grey aluminium.
- 4.3.4 I am satisfied that the design of development is acceptable and in accordance with Policy D1 of the Local Plan and Section 12 of the NPPF.

Impact on Heritage Assets

- 4.3.5 Within a Conservation Area, the Council has a duty to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area, in accordance with Section 72 of the Listed Building and Conservation Areas Act (1990). Furthermore, Section 16 of the NPPF sets out guidance relating to sustaining and enhancing heritage assets. In this regard, Policy HE1 of the Local Plan is consistent with the NPPF.
- 4.3.6 When considering the impact of proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset (such as a Conservation Area), the NPPF notes that great weight should be given to the asset's conservation; the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.
- 4.3.7 The proposed development would not have any significant impact on the character and appearance of the conservation area. The proposed design and materials are considered sympathetic to the locality and to the conservation area and there would not be any harm to the heritage significance of the conservation area.
- 4.3.8 I am satisfied that the development is acceptable and in accordance with Policy HE1 of the Local Plan and Section 16 of the NPPF.

Archaeology

- 4.3.9 When considering the impact of proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset (such as archaeology), the NPPF (Section 16 – Conserving and enhancing the historic environment) notes that great weight should be given to the asset's conservation; the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. In this regard, Policy HE4 of the Local Plan is consistent with the NPPF.

- 4.3.10 No objection has been received from archaeology. Given that the proposed development is of a minor scale within an already built-up area and is unlikely to disrupt subterranean heritage.
- 4.3.11 I am satisfied that the development is in accordance with Policy HE4 of the Local Plan and Section 16 of the NPPF.

Impact on Neighbouring Properties:

- 4.3.12 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 Local Plan..
- 4.3.13 No objections have been received in respect of the application and to address the comment from Ashwell Parish Council, comments cannot be transferred across from one application to another. Given the minor scale of the development, orientation of the dwelling and distance to neighbouring properties to the rear, I am satisfied that there would be no significant impact on existing residential amenity as a result of the proposed development.
- 4.3.14 I am satisfied that the proposal is in accordance with Policy D3 of the Local Plan and Section 12 of the NPPF.

Highways and Parking:

- 4.3.15 The dwelling is served by sufficient off-street parking spaces which would not be affected by the proposed development and is therefore considered to be in accordance with Policy T2 of the Local Plan.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)

- 4.3.16 This development is not subject to the statutory Biodiversity Gain Plan condition because it is exempt under the statutory exemptions as set out in paragraph 17 of Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and the Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Exemptions) Regulations 2024.

Environmental Implications:

- 4.3.17 Section 14 of the NPPF sets out how the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future. The principles set out in Section 14 are reflected in Policy D1 of the Local Plan, which sets out that development proposals should take all reasonable opportunities to reduce energy consumption and waste, retain existing vegetation and propose new appropriate planting, and future proof for changes in technology and lifestyle.
- 4.3.18 In my view, the proposed development would be unlikely to have any significant implications for the local environment in terms of carbon emissions and therefore would be generally in accordance with Policy D1 of the Local Plan and Section 14 of the NPPF.

4.4 **Conclusion**

- 4.4.1 The proposed development is considered acceptable and in accordance with Policies SP1, SP2, SP9, SP13, D1, D2, D3, HE1 and HE4 of the Local Plan 2011-2031 and Sections 2, 12, 14 and 16 of the NPPF.

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.

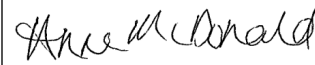
Reason: To ensure the development is carried out in accordance with details which form the basis of this grant of permission.

3. The extension hereby permitted shall be built in external materials to match the existing dwellinghouse unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

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  Anne McDonald Determining Officer	Development Management North Hertfordshire District Council Council Offices Gernon Road Letchworth Herts SG6 3JF
Date: 20 November 2025	