

Design, Access & Planning Statement.

Conversion of existing garage into a separate dwelling and alterations 502 Coventry Road, Hinckley, Leicestershire, LE10 0NJ (Resubmission 23/00666/FUL).

July 2024

Introduction

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This Statement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) Order 2010 and Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Amendment) Order 2015.

In accordance with the National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG), the level of detail presented in this statement is proportionate to the scale and complexity of the application. References were made to the relevant planning policies. These are predominantly the adopted and saved Local Plan policies as they take primacy in the determination of such an application where they are NPPF & NPPG compliant.

Relevant Planning Policy

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning 1990 requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

National Policy Guidance

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG).
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010

Development Management Policies DPD

Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (2016)

Policy DM1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

Policy DM10: Development and Design

Policy DM17: Highways & Transportation

Policy DM18: Vehicle Parking Standards

Good Design Guide (2020)

Leicestershire Highway Design Guide (LHDG) (2022)

Technical Housing Standards – Nationally Described Space Standards (2015)

Principle and other material planning considerations

The Written Ministerial Statement Planning for Growth and Laying the Foundations emphasized the Government's approach to house building and the need to provide action to build more houses and to boost economic growth. Although now superseded by the NPPG, it remains fully reinforced by the NPPF (2023) where the Government's aim remains to significantly boost the supply of housing.

The NPPF identifies three dimensions to sustainable development giving rise for the planning system to perform the roles below:

“an economic role – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;

a social role – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community’s needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and

an environmental role – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.”

Furthermore, LP policy should follow the approach of the presumption in favour of sustainable development where such development should be supported when weighing all of the provisions of the NPPF2 as a complete document.

The Government is committed to ensuring the planning system should not act as an impediment to housing provision. All Local Authorities need to significantly boost the supply of housing irrespective of the status of the immediate 5 YHLS. In reference to their report “Building More Homes” (July 2016) the cross-party House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee Chairman Lord Hollick stated:

“We are facing an acute housing crisis with home ownership – and increasingly renting-being simply unaffordable for a great many people. The only way to address this is to increase supply. The country needs to build 300,000 homes a year for the foreseeable future.”

This conclusion was reinforced in November 2016 when the RPTI released a Policy Statement on identifying new housing development opportunities entitled: *Where should we build more homes?* Under section “land within existing built up areas will not meet all our needs” the Statement concludes:

“Even with an enhanced urban renewal and regeneration programmes of action and funding, land within existing built up areas will not meet all our housing needs in full. Some of the future housing needs will have to be met on greenfield land around our towns and cities. The experience of our members clearly indicates that this can be done without undermining the priority to be given to brownfield sites through a planned, managed and phased approach to development.”

Paragraph 11 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Policy DM1 of the Site Allocation and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (SADMP) set out a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and state that development proposals that accord with the development plan should be approved unless other material considerations indicate otherwise. The development plan in this instance consists of the adopted Core Strategy (2009) and the Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD (2016).

Local List Requirements

Due to the scale and nature of the proposal, the level of detail submitted with the application is considered proportionate. Schedule 4 of the DMPO details the statutory consultations required before the grant of permission. If during the determination period the statutory consultees request additional information and this is not provided by the applicant, the LPA could refuse the application for this reason. On this basis this section forms a notice under Article 12(1) (DMPO Amended July 2015) as the applicant considers the submitted information meets the requirements set out in article 34(6)(c) and any other information contained in the adopted Local List should be waived allowing the immediate validation of the application.

Amount, Layout & Design

The Framework seeks to protect communities from inappropriate development but not to curtail development where it accords with Local Plan policy. Planning policies and decisions should no longer attempt to impose architectural styles however it is proper to seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness and reflect the adjacent built form.

Regarding the above, the delegated report associated with application 23/00666/FUL states:

“The development converts a residential outbuilding into a residential dwelling within an area characterised by residential dwellings. The proposal makes very limited alterations to the external appearance of the existing structure, which preserves the character of the area. Therefore, the change of use is not considered to cause any significant adverse impacts to the character of the area.”

The former delegated report confirms the principle of the conversion and that the existing built form preserves the character of the area and the proposal is therefore resubmitted on this basis. Minor amendments have addressed the issues of potential overlooking and the parking arrangements including the provision of a dropped kerb following the previous Standing Advice of the Highway Authority.

In recent years the LPA now accept that minor residential schemes (less than 9 units) carry similar weight or benefits to larger residential schemes especially when viewed cumulatively on an annual basis. Such windfall sites materially often make a significant contribution to the 5YHLS as demonstrated by the: ***Windfall Study An assessment of the case for including windfall in the five year housing land supply (1 April 2020)*** that states:

“A thorough analysis of completion data for the last ten years has shown that windfall makes a consistent contribution towards total completions and small site completions in Hinckley and Bosworth Borough; on average approximately 18% of the total completions were small windfall sites and approximately 76% of small site completions were windfall. The evidence presented in this report provides a strong case for the inclusion of windfall within the Council’s development trajectory and more specifically the five year housing land supply.”

Based on this principle it is considered the proposal represents sustainable development and can be supported as a windfall site that demonstrably and positively contributes to the LPA rolling 5YHLS.

In the overall policy context, the scheme reflects and continues the existing residential built form and therefore represents an integrated and sustainable development that would be in accordance with paragraph 70 of the Framework that states:

“Small and medium sized sites can make an important contribution to meeting the housing requirement of an area, and are often built-out relatively quickly. To promote the development of a good mix of sites local planning authorities should: seek opportunities, through policies and decisions, to support small sites to come forward for community-led development for housing and self-build and custom-build housing;”

Access Parking & Sustainability

The existing access will be utilised and parking can be accommodated within the scheme to meet the necessary requirements of the new dwelling.

PPG13 and associated guidance is replaced by the NPPF that states:

“Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.”

When considering the above and the previous standing advice, the modest amount of development and the percentage impacts of this traffic are considered minimal meaning the impact of the development will have effectively ‘nil detriment’ and will not therefore adversely affect the current road network capacity.

Conclusion & Justification

Given the current policy context, the LPA fully recognise the valuable contribution minor applications such as the current scheme make towards maintaining a rolling 5YHLS as highlighted by the HBBC Windfall Study (April 2020).

Therefore, the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies in this instance and as such the proposal represents the type of organic, integrated and sustainable development that is appropriate within the local context and is supported by the direction of travel in terms of Government policy, recent appeal decisions and the key policy objectives of the existing and emerging Core Strategy.