

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/26/0589	Case Officer:	Tracie Axford
Application Type:	Householder Application		
Proposal:	Proposed garage conversion.		
Site:	36 Trubwick Avenue, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 4UR, , , ,		
Validation Date	16 Mar 2026	Overall Expiry Date:	6 Apr 2026
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Refusal	Recommendation Date:	8 May 2026
Target Date:	11 May 2026	Recommending Officer Signature:	<i>Tracie Axford</i>

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	0
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Signed and Agreed By:	<i>Joanne Fisher</i>	Date:	11 May 2026
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/26/0589

36 Trubwick Avenue, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 4UR, , ,
Proposed garage conversion.
Mr And Mrs Humprey

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

None received

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEES

None

HAYWARDS HEATH TOWN COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS

Haywards Heath Town Council made no comment regarding the application

INTRODUCTION

The proposal is seeking planning permission for a garage conversion to internal habitable space.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

There is no relevant planning history.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

The property is a two storey semi-detached house, located in Bolnore Village in Haywards Heath. The dwelling is located at the southern end of Trubwick Avenue close to the corner with Renfields. The front elevation of the property faces Renfields Play Area.

To the front of the property is a small front garden whilst the driveway and garage is accessed on the side elevation of the property. There is space on the driveway for one vehicle. To the northwest of the property is a 3 storey apartment block whilst the houses on either side of the property are of a similar style.

APPLICATION DETAILS

The proposed garage conversion proposes create a door leading from the living area into the garage and convert the garage into a habitable space. Internally the garage will be split into two areas with the front portion facing the driveway to be used as a storage area. No external changes are proposed to the front elevation. To the rear, 2 velux windows are proposed to be added providing light to the internal space.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND LIST OF POLICIES

Planning legislation holds that the determination of a planning application shall be made in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Using this as the starting point the development plan for this part of Mid Sussex consists of the District Plan, Site Allocation Development Plan Document (DPD) and the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

National policy (which is contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and National Planning Policy Guidance) does not form part of the development plan, but is an important material consideration.

Mid Sussex District Plan

The District Plan was adopted at Full Council on 28th March 2018.

Relevant policies:

DP21 - Transport

DP26 - Character and Design

Site Allocations DPD

The SADPD was adopted on 29th June 2022. It allocates sufficient housing and employment land to meet identified needs to 2031.

There are no relevant policies.

Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan

The Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan was made on 15th December 2016.

Relevant policies:

Policy E9 - Design

Policy H9 - Building Extensions

Other Material Considerations

Mid Sussex District Plan 2021 - 2039 - Submission Draft (Regulation 19)

The District Council is reviewing and updating the District Plan. Upon adoption, the new District Plan 2021 - 2039 will replace the current District Plan 2014-2031 and its policies will have full weight. In accordance with the NPPF, Local Planning Authorities may give weight to relevant policies of the emerging plan according to the stage of preparation; the extent to which there are unresolved objections to the relevant policies; and the degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to the NPPF. The draft District Plan 2021-2039 (Regulation 19) is currently at Examination and hearings were concluded on the 19th March 2026. The District Plan remains at Examination until the Inspector has published his report, until that time only minimal weight can be given to the Plan and this planning application has been assessed against the policies of the adopted District Plan.

Relevant policies:

DPB1 - Character and Design

DPT4 - Parking and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

Mid Sussex Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

The Council has adopted a 'Mid Sussex Design Guide' SPD that aims to help deliver high quality development across the district that responds appropriately to its context and is inclusive and sustainable. The Design Guide was adopted by Council on 4th November 2020 as an SPD for use in the consideration and determination of planning applications. The SPD is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

WSCC Guidance on Parking at New Developments - September 2020

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024)

ASSESSMENT

It is considered that the main issues that need to be considered in the determination of this application are as follows;

- Design and Character
- Impact on neighbouring properties
- Impact on Parking
- Biodiversity Net Gain

Design and Character

Policy DP26 of the Mid Sussex District Plan states:

'All development and surrounding spaces, including alterations and extensions to existing buildings and replacement dwellings, will be well designed and reflect the distinctive character of the towns and villages while being sensitive to the countryside. All applicants will be required to demonstrate that development:

- *is of high quality design and layout and includes appropriate landscaping and greenspace;*
- *contributes positively to, and clearly defines, public and private realms and should normally be designed with active building frontages facing streets and public open spaces to animate and provide natural surveillance;*

- *creates a sense of place while addressing the character and scale of the surrounding buildings and landscape;*
- *protects open spaces, trees and gardens that contribute to the character of the area;*
- *protects valued townscapes and the separate identity and character of towns and villages;*
- *does not cause significant harm to the amenities of existing nearby residents and future occupants of new dwellings, including taking account of the impact on privacy, outlook, daylight and sunlight, and noise, air and light pollution (see Policy DP27);*
- *creates a pedestrian-friendly layout that is safe, well connected, legible and accessible;*
- *incorporates well integrated parking that does not dominate the street environment, particularly where high density housing is proposed;*
- *positively addresses sustainability considerations in the layout and the building design;*
- *take the opportunity to encourage community interaction by creating layouts with a strong neighbourhood focus/centre; larger (300+ unit) schemes will also normally be expected to incorporate a mixed use element;*
- *optimises the potential of the site to accommodate development.'*

Policy E9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan states:

'Developers must demonstrate how their proposal will protect and reinforce the local character within the locality of the site. This will include having regard to the following design elements:

- *height, scale, spacing, layout, orientation, design and materials of buildings,*
 - *the scale, design and materials of the development (highways, footways, open space and landscape), and is sympathetic to the setting of any heritage asset,*
 - *respects the natural contours of a site and protects and sensitively incorporates natural features such as trees, hedges and ponds within the site,*
 - *creates safe, accessible and well-connected environments that meet the needs of users,*
 - *Will not result in unacceptable levels of light, noise, air or water pollution,*
 - *Makes best use of the site to accommodate development,*
 - *Car parking is designed and located so that it fits in with the character of the proposed development.*
- Proposals affecting a listed building, conservation area, building of local interest or public park of historic interest or their setting should preserve or enhance their special interest and/or distinctive character.'*

A similar ethos is found within the Mid Sussex Design Guide SPD.

The proposed garage conversion will not result in any external changes. The only external change would be to the rear of the garage space, where 2 rooflights would be added. It is therefore considered that there would be no impact on the character of the area, nor the streetscene as a result of the proposal.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with policy DP26 of the District Plan and policy E9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

Impact on neighbouring properties

In terms of impact upon neighbouring amenities Policy DP26 in part seeks to ensure that development:

'does not cause significant harm to the amenities of existing nearby residents and future occupants of new dwellings, including taking account of the impact on privacy, outlook, daylight and sunlight, and noise, air and light pollution (see Policy DP29);'

Policy H9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan deals with Extensions to existing dwellings and states in part that, *'the privacy, daylight, sunlight and outlook of adjoining residents are safeguarded.* There is a conflict between the two policies.

Under section 38(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 if a policy contained in a development plan for an area conflicts with another policy in the development plan, the conflict must be resolved in favour of the policy which is contained in the last document to be adopted, approved or published. As such, policy DP26 of the MSDP is considered to take precedence and therefore the test in this instance is whether the development causes significant harm to neighbouring amenities as outlined above.'

It is not considered that the proposed development would give rise to any significant impacts to the neighbours. No external changes are proposed, therefore the proposal will not result in any impact on privacy, outlook, daylight and sunlight, and noise, air and light pollution.

Therefore, in terms of neighbouring amenities, the proposal is deemed to comply with policy DP26 of the Mid Sussex District Plan and policy H9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

Parking provision

Policy DP21 of the District Plan states that to meet the objectives of the West Sussex Transport Plan 2011- 2026, decisions on development proposals will take account of whether: *'the scheme provides adequate car parking for the proposed development taking into account the accessibility of the development, the type, mix and use of the development and the availability and opportunities for public transport; and with the relevant Neighbourhood Plan where applicable;.*

Policy E9 requires in part *'- Car parking is designed and located so that it fits in with the character of the proposed development.*

Condition 14 of the original planning permission for the development (ref: CD/029/96) states the following:

14. Building work shall not commence until details of the space to be laid out for parking and stationing vehicles clear of the public carriageway, including garages have been approved by the Local Planning Authority and no building shall be occupied until such space has been surfaced, drained and completed. The space so approved shall not thereafter be used other than for the parking of vehicles in connection with the development hereby permitted.

Reason: In the interests of road safety.

The property therefore does not benefit from permitted development rights to convert the garage.

West Sussex County Council Parking Standards Guidance (2020) outlines the County Council's approach to parking at new developments to ensure that sufficient parking is provided to meet the needs of the development while maintaining highway network operations, protecting surrounding communities and pursuing opportunities to encourage use of sustainable modes of transport.

As a result of the proposal, although the garage door on the front elevation of the garage would remain, the garage would be split into two sections with the front portion designated for storage which would not be large enough to park a car. Therefore the garage parking space would be lost. Although there would be no change to the number of external parking spaces on the driveway, only one car parking space would remain to serve the house.

It has been confirmed that the property currently has four bedrooms. West Sussex County Council Parking Standards Guidance (2020) outlines that for a 4-bedroom dwelling in this location that 2.2 parking spaces should be provided. The existing site has 2 off street parking spaces however, the proposed garage conversion would reduce the number of parking spaces by 1. There is limited existing off-street car parking due to the parking layout of the locality which is across the frontage of houses and a limited number of parking bays. As such, the loss of the garage would not provide adequate car parking in highway terms and would be likely to cause obstruction and be prejudicial to highway safety. As such the resulting parking arrangement would not comply with the West Sussex Council Guidance, the above-mentioned part of policy DP21 of the Mid Sussex District Plan and policy E9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity net gain is required under a statutory framework introduced by Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is a householder application within the meaning of article 2(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. As a householder application this development is exempt from the requirement to provide biodiversity net gain.

PLANNING BALANCE AND CONCLUSION

The conversion would result in the loss of an off-street parking space and is likely to increase the need for on street parking. This would lead to obstruction and be prejudicial to highway safety. As such the resulting parking arrangement would be contrary to policies DP21 and DP26 of the Mid Sussex District Plan, policies E9 and H9 of the Neighbourhood Plan, the West Sussex County Council Parking Standards Guidance and the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF, and permission should be refused.

Decision: Refusal

Case Officer: Tracie Axford