

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/0533	Case Officer:	Emily Wade
Application Type:	Listed Building Consent		
Proposal:	Emergency work to part-dismantle and re-build two chimneys due to storm damage.		
Site:	Shepherds Farm, Turners Hill Road, Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 4HQ, ,		
Validation Date	14 May 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	13 Jun 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	7 Jul 2025
Target Date:	9 Jul 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	Emily Wade

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	0
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Signed and Agreed By:	Steven King	Date:	7 Jul 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/0533

**Shepherds Farm, Turners Hill Road, Crawley Down, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 4HQ,
Emergency work to part-dismantle and re-build two chimneys due to storm damage.
Mr And Mrs Corfe**

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

None received.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEES

Not relevant.

TOWN/PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS

Defer to Officer

INTRODUCTION

The current proposal, which is partly retrospective, relates to Shepherds Farm, a Grade II listed building, and is for the partial demolition and rebuilding of two chimneys which are deemed to be structurally unsound, and the repointing and repair of a third.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

None relevant.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

Shepherds Farm is a Grade II listed former farmhouse located in a rural position outside Crawley Down. A range of former farm buildings to the east, in separate ownership, have been partly converted for residential use.

The former farmhouse has been sequentially extended in three principle phases, the earliest of which appears to date from the 16th century or earlier (notwithstanding the list description). The external appearance of the main range is now of a building of the early 19th century. The building has a range of different window styles.

APPLICATION DETAILS

The current proposal, which is partly retrospective, is for the partial demolition and rebuilding on a like-for-like basis of two chimneys which are deemed to be structurally unsound, and the repointing and repair of a third.

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 Worth 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:

DP34 Listed Buildings and Other Heritage Assets.

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.

Neighbourhood Plan

There are no relevant policies.

Other Legislation

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Other Material Considerations

Mid Sussex District Plan 2021-2039 Consultation Draft

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 stage 1 hearings were concluded on the 31st October 2024. There are unresolved objections to the majority of Policies in the draft District Plan and as such, 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:

DPB2 Listed Buildings and Other Heritage Assets

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.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2023)

Paragraphs 210, 212-215 of the NPPF are relevant and state that:

'210. In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- o the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- o the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and*
- o the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.*

Considering potential impacts

212. When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

213. Any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of:

- a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional;
- b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.

214. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation;
- c) and conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

215. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.'

Section 16 (2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states:

'In considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works the local planning authority or the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.'

ASSESSMENT

District Plan Policy DP34 will be relevant, and states that:

'Development will be required to protect listed buildings and their settings. This will be achieved by ensuring that:...

- *Alterations or extensions to a listed building respect its historic form, scale, setting, significance and fabric...'*

The current proposal, which is partly retrospective, is for the demolition and rebuilding, on structural grounds, of two chimneys to this Grade II listed former farmhouse, and repairs to a third. The chimneys were inspected following storm damage, and two were found to be in a dangerous and leaning condition. Following consultation with MSDC, these two chimneys have been reduced in height to make them safe. The current proposal is to reconstruct the stacks to their full height on a like-for-like basis, but omitting the render facing to one, which is considered to have contributed to its structural deterioration. A third chimney is proposed to be repointed and repaired.

The chimneys in question date to the mid 19th century and make a positive contribution to the special interest of the listed building, in terms of both its appearance and its narrative. Whilst the loss of original fabric resulting from their partial demolition is considered regrettable, it is considered justified by their poor condition and the danger of collapse. The proposal to rebuild on a like-for-like basis is considered acceptable in this context, as is the omission of render from one of the two, which is hoped will ensure its longevity. The proposed repairs to the third chimney is not considered contentious.

The proposal is therefore considered to meet the requirements of District Plan Policy DP34 and the relevant paragraphs of the NPPF.

PLANNING BALANCE AND CONCLUSION

It is recommended that listed building consent is granted.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Emily Wade