

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/26/0361	Case Officer:	Tracie Axford
Application Type:	Lawful Development Certificate -Proposed		
Proposal:	Proposed garage conversion.		
Site:	23 Bluebell Close, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1RS, , , ,		
Validation Date	11 Feb 2026	Overall Expiry Date:	10 Mar 2026
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	30 Mar 2026
Target Date:	8 Apr 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>Stephen Ashdown</i>	Date:	31 Mar 2026
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/26/0361

**23 Bluebell Close, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1RS, , ,
Proposed garage conversion.
Ms Sarah Ryan**

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

None received

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEES

None

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS

East Grinstead Town Council made no comment on this application.

INTRODUCTION

This application is seeking a Lawful Development Certificate for a garage conversion.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

23 Bluebell Close is a two-storey detached property with an attached double garage to the side elevation. Externally there is brickwork to the ground floor and hanging tiles to the first floor. The property is located at the end of the cul-de-sac with no 21 to the east and no 19 to the north.

Bluebell Close is characterised by similar detached properties both in design and scale and have a variety of external finishes.

The site is within the built-up area of East Grinstead.

APPLICATION DETAILS

The applicant is seeking a Lawful Development Certificate for the conversion of the existing garage to create a space for a playroom leading from the existing kitchen. The space has previously been converted into two separate areas with the area accessed by the garage doors to the front elevation designated as a storage area. It is proposed to keep the one garage doors to the front elevation, whilst replacing the other door with a window and to add two new windows and sets of doors to the rear.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This application is to establish whether the proposed development for the garage conversion would benefit from permitted development rights and will be a legal decision; planning merits cannot be taken into account when considering this application.

The proposal will be tested against the relevant criteria of Part 1, Class A of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended), as detailed below:

Permitted Development

Class A - enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwellinghouse

Permitted Development

A. The enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwellinghouse.

Development not permitted

A.1 Development is not permitted by Class A if—

- (a) permission to use the dwellinghouse as a dwellinghouse has been granted only by virtue of Class G, M, MA, N, P, PA or Q of Part 3 of this Schedule (changes of use);
- (b) as a result of the works, the total area of ground covered by buildings within the curtilage of the dwellinghouse (other than the original dwellinghouse) would exceed 50% of the total area of the curtilage (excluding the ground area of the original dwellinghouse);
- (c) the height of the part of the dwellinghouse enlarged, improved or altered would exceed the height of the highest part of the roof of the existing dwellinghouse;
- (d) the height of the eaves of the part of the dwellinghouse enlarged, improved or altered would exceed the height of the eaves of the existing dwellinghouse;
- (e) the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would extend beyond a wall which—
 - (i) forms the principal elevation of the original dwellinghouse; or
 - (ii) fronts a highway and forms a side elevation of the original dwellinghouse;
- (f) subject to paragraph (g), the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would have a single storey and—
 - (i) extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse by more than 4 metres in the case of a detached dwellinghouse, or 3 metres in the case of any other dwellinghouse, or
 - (ii) exceed 4 metres in height;
- (g) for a dwellinghouse not on article 2(3) land nor on a site of special scientific interest, the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would have a single storey and—
 - (i) extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse by more than 8 metres in the case of a detached dwellinghouse, or 6 metres in the case of any other dwellinghouse, or
 - (ii) exceed 4 metres in height;
- (h) the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would have more than a single storey and—
 - (i) extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse by more than 3 metres, or
 - (ii) be within 7 metres of any boundary of the curtilage of the dwellinghouse being enlarged which is opposite the rear wall of that dwellinghouse;
- (i) the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would be within 2 metres of the boundary of the curtilage of the dwellinghouse, and the height of the eaves of the enlarged part would exceed 3 metres;
- (j) the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would extend beyond a wall forming a side elevation of the original dwellinghouse, and would—
 - (i) exceed 4 metres in height,
 - (ii) have more than a single storey, or
 - (iii) have a width greater than half the width of the original dwellinghouse;
- (ja) any total enlargement (being the enlarged part together with any existing enlargement of the original dwellinghouse to which it will be joined) exceeds or would exceed the limits set out in sub-paragraphs (e) to (j);
- (k) it would consist of or include—
 - (i) the construction or provision of a verandah, balcony or raised platform,
 - (ii) the installation, alteration or replacement of a microwave antenna,
 - (iii) the installation, alteration or replacement of a chimney, flue or soil and vent pipe, or
 - (iv) an alteration to any part of the roof of the dwellinghouse ; or
- (l) the dwellinghouse is built under Part 20 of this Schedule (construction of new dwellinghouses).

A.2 In the case of a dwellinghouse on article 2(3) land, development is not permitted by Class A if—

- (a) it would consist of or include the cladding of any part of the exterior of the dwellinghouse with stone, artificial stone, pebble dash, render, timber, plastic or tiles;
- (b) the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would extend beyond a wall forming a side elevation of the original dwellinghouse; or
- (c) the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would have more than a single storey and extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse;
- (d) any total enlargement (being the enlarged part together with any existing enlargement of the original dwellinghouse to which it will be joined) exceeds or would exceed the limits set out in sub-paragraphs (b) and (c).

Conditions

A.3 Development is permitted by Class A subject to the following conditions—

- (a) the materials used in any exterior work (other than materials used in the construction of a conservatory) must be of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the exterior of the existing dwellinghouse;
- (b) any upper-floor window located in a wall or roof slope forming a side elevation of the dwellinghouse must be—
 - (i) obscure-glazed, and
 - (ii) non-opening unless the parts of the window which can be opened are more than 1.7 metres above the floor of the room in which the window is installed; and
- (c) where the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse has more than a single storey, or forms an upper storey on an existing enlargement of the original dwellinghouse, the roof pitch of the enlarged part must, so far as practicable, be the same as the roof pitch of the original dwellinghouse.

ASSESSMENT

The property's planning history has been checked and household permitted development rights are understood to be intact for the element proposed. The property is not subject to an Article 4 Direction or located on Article 2(3) land. One external change is proposed to the front elevation of the property to replace one of the garage doors with a window in materials matching those of the existing dwelling. The rear windows and doors which are to be added will also be done in materials matching those of the existing dwelling. The proposed garage conversion complies with the criteria set out in Class A of Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended).

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the proposed development is deemed to comply with the applicable permitted development criteria as set out within Class A of Part 1 Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) and therefore a certificate of Lawful Development can be issued.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Tracie Axford