

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/0819	Case Officer:	Anna Tidey
Application Type:	Householder Application		
Proposal:	Two storey extension to the side of the existing house, comprising a garage and studio room at first floor.		
Site:	12 Lucastes Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1LD, , , ,		
Validation Date	3 Dec 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	25 Dec 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	26 Jan 2026
Target Date:	28 Jan 2026	Recommending Officer Signature:	Anna Tidey

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	0
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Signed and Agreed By:	Steven King	Date:	26 Jan 2026
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/0819

12 Lucastes Lane, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1LD, , ,
Two storey extension to the side of the existing house, comprising a garage and studio room at first floor.
Mr Lee Smith

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

None received.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEES

Tree Officer: I have reviewed the Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement for this proposal and have no objection. Please condition adherence to these documents.

Naturespace Newt Officer: The proposed development is not considered to be relevant to the District Licensing Scheme and we consider there would be no likely impact on great crested newts or their habitats. I therefore have no comments.

Amended Plans: No further comments.

Flood Risk and Drainage Team: Having reviewed the Flood Risk Assessment, we have no objection on flood risk grounds. Any amendments to the drainage on site can be managed via building regulations and building control as necessary.

Amended Plans: The previous comments and recommendations remain valid.

TOWN COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS

Haywards Heath Town Council: No comment.

INTRODUCTION

This application seeks planning permission for a two storey side extension, containing a new garage and a studio room at first floor at No 12 Lucastes Lane in Haywards Heath.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

06/01601/FUL. Extension to first floor and conversion of garage to room. Approved September 2006.
CU/269/79. Single storey extension to lounge at rear. Approved October 1979.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

No 12 Lucastes Lane is a 4 bed detached house, with a separate single garage building/shed. The garage is located to the north eastern corner of the house on higher ground. The house is located on the northern side of Lucastes Lane on the junction to The Droveway in Haywards Heath. This is an established residential road in the Built up Area of Haywards Heath. There are four houses between the site and the western boundary of the Lucastes Conservation Area

The property has been previously extended by the addition of a single storey conservatory addition on the northern elevation.

The house benefits from a front driveway off Lucastes Lane with a dropped kerb access across the front pavement, and from a hardsurfaced frontage for off road parking.

The side garden boundary is enclosed by a 2m high (approx.) boundary fence. Beyond this there are trees growing in the verge of the access road to houses located in The Droveaway.

The nearest neighbouring houses are located to the north (rear) of the site, on higher ground, at No 1A The Droveaway and to the east at No 8 Lucastes Lane.

The site is located in a Red Zone for Great Crested Newts and within the built up area of Haywards Heath.

APPLICATION DETAILS

This application seeks planning permission for the removal of the existing garage/shed and the construction of a two storey side extension on the eastern side of the property. The proposed extension contains a single garage, with an internal side doorway to lead into the house on the ground floor. Within the extension is an internal lobby, with a rear external door, and an internal staircase leading to a first floor games/media room.

The proposed extension measures 5.6m wide by 6.7m deep (approx.), with the front wall positioned in line with the set back front wall on the house. The rear wall of the addition is shown to project 0.9m back from the main wall of the house, but lies forward of the 3.6m deep projection of the rear conservatory addition.

During the course of determining the application amended plans have been submitted to show design changes to the proposed extension. As originally submitted the proposed elevations showed the garage door to be 2.8m wide and a flat roofed front facing dormer at a width of 3.5m in the addition. The amended plans show the garage door enlarged to a width of 3.5m and the dormer addition reduced to a width of 2.5m.

The application has also been supported by the submission of an Arboricultural report as the extension will bring the built form of the house closer to trees growing alongside the eastern site boundary.

The addition is shown on the proposed plans to be constructed in brickwork and tiles to match the existing on the house. The proposed dormer is sited level with, and with white UPVC cladding to match, the existing front and side facing dormers on the house. The roofline on the addition is shown to be constructed with a flat roofed section, set down approx. 0.7m from the main ridgeline on the house.

The garage is shown to have side and rear facing windows. The first floor room will be lit by a front facing window, located in the dormer, a side window in the gable end of the addition and two 1.5m wide rooflights, with grey aluminium frames, located in the rear roof slope.

The submitted elevation plans show the proposed side extension will be constructed with the ground floor level with the house, which will require some ground level reduction and relandscaping works at the side and rear of the house.

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, the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan and Site Allocations DPD.

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
DP37 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
DP38 Biodiversity

Site Allocations Development Plan Document

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

There are no policies deemed relevant to this application.

Neighbourhood Plan

Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan -made 15 December 2016.

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 the stage 1 hearings were concluded on the 31st October 2024. There are unresolved objections to some of the 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:

DPS2 Sustainable Design and Construction
DPS6 Health and Wellbeing
DPB1 Character and Design
DPN4 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

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 2024)

ASSESSMENT

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

- Design
- Impact on residential amenities
- Parking provision
- Impact upon trees
- Biodiversity
- Biodiversity Net Gain

Design

Policy DP26 of the District Plan seeks to promote well located and designed development, to protect valued characteristics of the built environment for their historical and visual qualities and support sustainable communities and create accessible environments. Policy DP26 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 DP29);*
- * 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.'*

Neighbourhood Plan Policies H9 and E9 are relevant, and these state:

Policy H9

'Extensions to existing dwellings will be permitted where it meets the following criteria:

- o The scale, height and form fit unobtrusively with the existing building and the character of the street scene.*
- o Spacing between buildings would respect the character of the street scene.*
- o Gaps which provide views out to surrounding countryside are maintained.*
- o Materials are compatible with the materials of the existing building.*
- o The traditional boundary treatment of an area is retained and, where feasible reinforced.*
- o The privacy, daylight, sunlight and outlook of adjoining residents are safeguarded.'*

Policy E9

'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:

- o height, scale, spacing, layout, orientation, design and materials of buildings,*
- o the scale, design and materials of the development (highways, footways, open space and landscape), and is sympathetic to the setting of any heritage asset,*

o respects the natural contours of a site and protects and sensitively incorporates natural features such as trees, hedges and ponds within the site,
o creates safe, accessible and well-connected environments that meet the needs of users,
o Will not result in unacceptable levels of light, noise, air or water pollution,
o Makes best use of the site to accommodate development,
o 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.'

Also relevant in the determination of the application is the design guidance contained in the Mid Sussex Design Guide, which seeks good design in house alterations and extensions.

Principle DG49 states:

'Extensions should respond to the design of the original dwelling and applicant will be expected to demonstrate how local character has informed the design proposal. Extensions should also normally be designed to be well integrated with the existing scale, form and massing allow the original building to remain the dominant element of the property whether it has one or several additions.

Extensions should typically use simple, uncomplicated building forms to complement and coordinate with the scale, form and massing of the original dwelling. The design approach may benefit from coordinating with the existing pattern of window and door openings as well as employing facing materials to match those of the existing dwelling. Otherwise it should demonstrate the appropriateness of the alternative approach.

Extensions should not result in a significant loss to the private amenity area of the dwelling.

There are two general approaches to extending a property:

-designing in the style of the existing building by closely matching its facing materials, architectural features, window sizes and proportions; and
-designing in a contemporary style that takes its cues from key aspects of the existing building that might include its underlying form and proportions, facing materials, window design and other specific architectural features. The success of this approach is particularly reliant on high quality facing materials and finishes, and this will normally need to be demonstrated through detailed elevations and section drawings.

Both approaches can create successful, well designed extensions that can be mutually beneficial to both the house and the wider area. All extensions and alterations should consider their impact on neighbouring properties (refer to Chapter 8 on residential amenity).'

Design Guide Principle DG50 refers to Front and Side extensions and states:

'Front and side extensions are typically visible from the public realm and will be resisted where they have an adverse impact on the street scene or the appearance of a dwelling.

Front extensions

Front extensions are more likely to be acceptable where the building line is staggered or where the dwelling is set well back from the road. They are less likely to be acceptable in streets with a strong consistent building form as they risk disrupting the underlying order. Where front extensions are considered acceptable, they should normally be limited to a modest single storey or porch-type extension that reflect the character of the existing property.

Side extensions

Side extensions should normally be subservient to the original dwelling and typically be set-back from the front of the house to help define the original building. The gaps between dwellings can sometimes positively contribute to articulating (for example, through the consistent rhythm of repeated houses) and adding interest in a street frontage or by providing views / visible connections to the surrounding countryside. Side extensions will therefore need to appropriately respond to the character of the street form and will not normally be accepted where they close an important gap and view.

The proposed extension will enlarge the host property on the ground and at first floor. The side addition will increase the width and scale of the dwelling and bring the footprint of the building closer to the access road to The Droveway. This will alter its presence on the corner plot and in the street scene. Due to the form of the addition, with the reduced roof height, the proposed extension will form a subordinate addition at the side of the house. The proposed plans show the removal of the detached garage, the footprint of which extends closer to The Droveway.

As a result of the proposed extensions the overall footprint of the building will be enlarged, but not by such a significant amount to be out of keeping on the property or upon its setting.

The proposed garage space, with enlarged doorway, will create a useful garage and workshop space and the first floor room is linked internally to the main house. The design and form of the proposed addition is acceptable and will not detract from the overall character and appearance of the house in public views from the street. The proposed construction materials will match the existing materials and style of the house.

Consequently, the appearance of the proposed extension is considered to accord with District Plan Policy DP26 and Policies H9 and E9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan and with the relevant Design Guide principles.

Impact on residential amenities

District Plan Policy DP26 and Neighbourhood Plan Policy H9 are relevant in the determination of this application with regards to the impact of the changes on residential amenities. There is a conflict in the phrasing of these policies. District Plan Policy DP26 requires 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.'*

In contrast Policy H9 states that extensions to existing dwellings will be permitted where the privacy, daylight, sunlight and outlook of adjoining residents are safeguarded.

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.

In addition Principle DG45 in the Design Guide refers to the need to consider privacy of existing and future residents and it is noted that privacy may be affected by the relationship of buildings to each other.

The immediate neighbouring properties are the house to the north at No 1A Droveway and No 8 Lucastes Lane, to the east. Each of these properties are of different designs to No 12.

No 1A has a first floor window facing over the rear garden of No 12, but there is a sufficient gap between the properties and the proposed new extension. A large hedgerow is growing on the rear garden boundary at No 12, shielding that property and this will serve to protect the residential amenities of the occupiers of that property from overlooking from the rear rooflights in the proposed first floor games/media room. The trees growing along the eastern boundary will prevent overlooking from the first floor side facing window that will face towards No 8.

Careful consideration has been given to the potential impact of the construction of the two storey extension at No 12. It is considered that given the relationship of the properties, the proposed addition will create no significant harm to the privacy, outlook, daylight and sunlight of the immediate residents. The proposal therefore accords with the requirements of the more up to date Policy DP26 of the District Plan, and also with the requirements of Policies H9 and E9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan and the relevant principles of the Design Guide.

Parking provision

With regards to parking provision for the extended house the relevant District Plan Policy is DP21, which states:

'Development will be required to support the objectives of the West Sussex Transport Plan 2011- 2026, which are:

- o A high quality transport network that promotes a competitive and prosperous economy;*
- o A resilient transport network that complements the built and natural environment whilst reducing carbon emissions over time;*
- o Access to services, employment and housing; and*
- o A transport network that feels, and is, safer and healthier to use.*

To meet these objectives, decisions on development proposals will take account of whether:

- o The scheme is sustainably located to minimise the need for travel noting there might be circumstances where development needs to be located in the countryside, such as rural economic uses (see policy DP14: Sustainable Rural Development and the Rural Economy);*
 - o Appropriate opportunities to facilitate and promote the increased use of alternative means of transport to the private car, such as the provision of, and access to, safe and convenient routes for walking, cycling and public transport, including suitable facilities for secure and safe cycle parking, have been fully explored and taken up;*
 - o The scheme is designed to adoptable standards, or other standards as agreed by the Local Planning Authority, including road widths and size of garages;*
 - o 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;*
 - o Development which generates significant amounts of movement is supported by a Transport Assessment/ Statement and a Travel Plan that is effective and demonstrably deliverable including setting out how schemes will be funded;*
 - o The scheme provides appropriate mitigation to support new development on the local and strategic road network, including the transport network outside of the district, secured where necessary through appropriate legal agreements;*
 - o The scheme avoids severe additional traffic congestion, individually or cumulatively, taking account of any proposed mitigation;*
 - o The scheme protects the safety of road users and pedestrians; and*
 - o The scheme does not harm the special qualities of the South Downs National Park or the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty through its transport impacts.*
- Where practical and viable, developments should be located and designed to incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles.*
- Neighbourhood Plans can set local standards for car parking provision provided that it is based upon evidence that provides clear and compelling justification for doing so'.*

The proposal will increase the number of first floor rooms in the house available to the occupiers of the house. Whilst not designated to be used as a bedroom, should the first floor room that is to be provided (marked on the plans as a games/media room) be used as such, the total bedrooms in the house would rise from 4 to 5.

There is existing off road parking provision at the side and front of the house. Whilst this area will be reduced as a result of the construction of the proposed extension it is considered that there would still be space for at least 4 vehicles to park off the road on the remaining frontage.

For a 4 bed property located in the Lucastes and Bolnore Ward of Haywards Heath the West Sussex County Council Guidance on Parking recommend 2.2 spaces should be provided, and for a 4+ bed house the requirement is also 2.2 spaces.

There is an over provision for parking for the extended dwelling when assessed against the WSCC parking requirements. Whilst there is restricted on street parking in the nearby roads, the site is also located in a sustainable location close to the station, town centre and other sustainable transport options. The proposal is therefore considered acceptable in terms of the provision for parking for the extended property and therefore the proposal accords with the aims of District Plan Policy DP21.

Impact upon trees

There are trees growing on the eastern boundary of the garden within falling distance of the proposed side extension. During the course of determining this application an Arboricultural Report has been provided by the applicant and this has been reviewed by the Tree Officer.

District Plan Policy DP37 is relevant in the determination of the application. This states:

'The District Council will support the protection and enhancement of trees, woodland and hedgerows, and encourage new planting. In particular, ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees will be protected.

Development that will damage or lead to the loss of trees, woodland or hedgerows that contribute, either individually or as part of a group, to the visual amenity value or character of an area, and/ or that have landscape, historic or wildlife importance, will not normally be permitted.

Proposals for new trees, woodland and hedgerows should be of suitable species, usually native, and where required for visual, noise or light screening purposes, trees, woodland and hedgerows should be of a size and species that will achieve this purpose.

Trees, woodland and hedgerows will be protected and enhanced by ensuring development:
o incorporates existing important trees, woodland and hedgerows into the design of new development and its landscape scheme; and
o prevents damage to root systems and takes account of expected future growth; and
o where possible, incorporates retained trees, woodland and hedgerows within public open space rather than private space to safeguard their long-term management; and
o has appropriate protection measures throughout the development process; and
o takes opportunities to plant new trees, woodland and hedgerows within the new development to enhance on-site green infrastructure and increase resilience to the effects of climate change; and
o does not sever ecological corridors created by these assets.

Proposals for works to trees will be considered taking into account:

o the condition and health of the trees; and
o the contribution of the trees to the character and visual amenity of the local area; and
o the amenity and nature conservation value of the trees; and
o the extent and impact of the works; and
o any replanting proposals.

The felling of protected trees will only be permitted if there is no appropriate alternative. Where a protected tree or group of trees is felled, a replacement tree or group of trees, on a minimum of a 1:1 basis and of an appropriate size and type, will normally be required. The replanting should take place as close to the felled tree or trees as possible having regard to the proximity of adjacent properties. Development should be positioned as far as possible from ancient woodland with a minimum buffer of 15 metres maintained between ancient woodland and the development boundary.'

The Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement for this proposal have been examined by the Tree Officer, and her comments are reported above. She has raised no objection to the application, subject to a planning condition requiring that the works are carried out in accordance with these documents. With such a condition in place it is considered that the proposal will accord with District Plan Policy DP37.

Biodiversity

The site falls within the Red Impact Risk Zone for Great Crested Newts.

The relevant District Plan Policy with regards to biodiversity and its protection is DP38. This states:

'Biodiversity will be protected and enhanced by ensuring development:

o Contributes and takes opportunities to improve, enhance, manage and restore biodiversity and green infrastructure, so that there is a net gain in biodiversity, including through creating new designated sites and locally relevant habitats, and incorporating biodiversity features within developments; and

o Protects existing biodiversity, so that there is no net loss of biodiversity. Appropriate measures should be taken to avoid and reduce disturbance to sensitive habitats and species. Unavoidable damage to biodiversity must be offset through ecological enhancements and mitigation measures (or compensation measures in exceptional circumstances); and

o Minimises habitat and species fragmentation and maximises opportunities to enhance and restore ecological corridors to connect natural habitats and increase coherence and resilience; and

o Promotes the restoration, management and expansion of priority habitats in the District; and

o Avoids damage to, protects and enhances the special characteristics of internationally designated Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation; nationally designated Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and locally designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, Local Nature Reserves and Ancient Woodland or to other areas identified as being of nature conservation or geological interest, including wildlife corridors, aged or veteran trees, Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, and Nature Improvement Areas.

Designated sites will be given protection and appropriate weight according to their importance and the contribution they make to wider ecological networks.

Valued soils will be protected and enhanced, including the best and most versatile agricultural land, and development should not contribute to unacceptable levels of soil pollution.

Geodiversity will be protected by ensuring development prevents harm to geological conservation interests, and where possible, enhances such interests. Geological conservation interests include Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites.'

An Informative is recommended regarding the potential for the development to affect Great Crested Newts to accord with the aims of District Plan Policy DP38.

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 proposed side extension is considered acceptable in design terms and will not impact harmfully upon the character and appearance of the property or the street scene in this established residential road.

It is considered that the new addition will not cause significant harm to the neighbouring amenities. The proposal accords with the aims of District Plan Policy DP26 and also with the requirements of Policies H9 and E9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan and the relevant principles of the Design Guide.

The site is located in a sustainable location. The proposed on site parking provision will accord with the aims of District Plan Policy DP21.

Subject to a planning condition requiring that the works are carried out in accordance with the submitted Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Method Statement the proposal will accord with the aims of District Plan Policy DP37.

Consequently this application is recommended for approval.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Anna Tidey