

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/0775	Case Officer:	Catherine Cardin
Application Type:	Householder Application		
Proposal:	Removal of the existing single storey rear extensions and the erection of a new single storey rear extension.		
Site:	31 Sunte Close, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1QT, , , ,		
Validation Date	24 Mar 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	18 Apr 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	13 May 2025
Target Date:	19 May 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	<i>Catherine Cardin</i>

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	0
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Signed and Agreed By:	<i>Steven King</i>	Date:	13 May 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/0775

**31 Sunte Close, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1QT, , ,
Removal of the existing single storey rear extensions and the erection of a new single storey rear extension.**

John And Chapman

SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

None received.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTEES

Southern Water

No objection.

TOWN COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS

No comment.

INTRODUCTION

Planning permission is sought to replace an existing single storey rear extension with a single storey rear extension.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

05/00341/FUL- Domestic extension and detached garage. Permission.

A related application to alter the existing hipped roof and install a rear dormer extension is being considered under DM/25/0776.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

31 Sunte Close is a semi-detached two storey dwelling constructed of red brick, a plain tile roof and white uPVC windows. The dwelling is set back from the highway, and benefits from off road parking to the front of the property. The site slopes gently to the southeast and the rear garden is angled towards the south-east. The property has stepped access to the rear garden with a raised patio area behind the existing conservatory.

The application site lies within the built-up area of Haywards Heath and is located in a cul-de-sac. Neighbouring properties are located to the south, west, and east whilst the highway is to the north.

APPLICATION DETAILS

The application seeks to replace existing single storey rear extensions with a single storey rear extension. It is proposed to be used as a kitchen and dining area.

The extension would measure some 6.3 metres in width and would have an angled rear elevation. The rear elevation would have a depth of some 4.9 metres on the western side and a depth of some 3.9 metres on the eastern side. This would have a flat roof on the eastern side and a pitched roof on the western side along the neighbouring boundary, with the flat roof having a sedum blanket finish. Plans show that 1 no. roof light is proposed on the pitched roof. The proposal would have double aluminium French doors on the rear (southern) elevation, with a 150mm step up into the extension. It is also proposed to install a window on the side (eastern) elevation.

The proposed extension would have brickwork to match the existing and aluminium windows and doors.

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 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:

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.

Neighbourhood Plan

Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan made in December 2016.

Relevant policies:

Policy E9- Design

Policy H9- Domestic 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

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 and Character
- Neighbouring Amenities
- Biodiversity Net Gain

Design and Character

Policy DP26 of the Mid Sussex District Plan relates to design and character and 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:

- o is of high quality design and layout and includes appropriate landscaping and greenspace;*
- o 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;*
- o creates a sense of place while addressing the character and scale of the surrounding buildings and landscape;*
- o protects open spaces, trees and gardens that contribute to the character of the area;*
- o protects valued townscapes and the separate identity and character of towns and villages;*
- o 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);*
- o creates a pedestrian-friendly layout that is safe, well connected, legible and accessible;*
- o incorporates well integrated parking that does not dominate the street environment, particularly where high density housing is proposed;*
- o positively addresses sustainability considerations in the layout and the building design;*
- o 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;*
- o optimises the potential of the site to accommodate development.'*

Policy E9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan relates to design and states that:

'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.'*

Policy H9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan relates to domestic extensions and states that:

'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.'*

Principle DG49 of the MSDC Design Guide establishes design principles for extensions to dwellings and states that:

'Extensions should respond to the design of the original dwelling and applicants 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 allowing 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.'

Principle DG51 relates to rear extensions and states that:

'Rear extensions which are not visible from the street and do not negatively impact on neighbouring properties can be expressed in many forms, including by adopting a contemporary architectural approach. With reference to DG49, they should nevertheless have consideration for the character of the existing building and the relationship of the extension with the side boundaries and adjacent buildings and gardens.'

The application relates to a residential area of Haywards Heath where the locality is characterised by properties which are a similar age and design.

The proposed rear extension is considered to be modest in size and scale and will sit subordnately against the existing dwellinghouse. The design of the extension is contemporary and is deemed appropriate as it allows the original building to remain the dominant element and responds appropriately to the existing dwelling. It is considered that the proposed pitched roof on the western side of the addition appropriately considers the relationship of the extension with the western side boundary. As the proposal includes facing brickwork and roof tiles to match the existing, it is considered that the design responds appropriately to the application property. Although the proposal introduces a new palette of materials, it is considered that these respond positively to the character of the host dwelling and its surroundings. The proposed extension would not have an adverse impact on the streetscene as it would not be visible from public viewpoints.

The proposal is therefore considered to address the character of the existing dwelling and the surrounding buildings, and as such the proposal is deemed to comply with the above part of policy DP26 of the District Plan, policies E9 and H9 of the Haywards Heath neighbourhood Plan and principles DG49 and DG51 of the Mid Sussex Design Guide SPD.

Neighbouring Amenities

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.

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 in the Neighbourhood Plan refers to safeguarding the privacy, daylight, sunlight and outlook of adjoining residents. There is some conflict between the wording of this policy and policy DP26. In accordance with planning law the conflict must be resolved in favour of the more recent policy and therefore the test is whether significant harm is caused to neighbouring amenity

Regarding the neighbour at 32 Sunte Close, to the west of the application site, although it is considered that there would be some loss of light to this neighbour, it is not considered that there would be significant harm to the light of this neighbour. As the proposal is single storey and the roof would be angled down towards this neighbour, it is not considered that there would be significant harm to the outlook of this neighbour. It is considered that the proposed pitched roof on the western side of the extension would reduce the massing of the addition and would mitigate against it appearing overbearing. Given that no windows are proposed on the western elevation and that the extension has been designed to angle away from this neighbour, it is not considered that the addition would give rise to any overlooking concerns.

Regarding the neighbour at 30 Sunte Close, to the east of the application site, as the proposal would be offset from the shared boundary by some 3.3 metres and this neighbour is angled away from the application property, it is not considered that there would be significant harm to the light of this neighbour. Given that there are existing garages along the shared boundary and that these would largely screen the development, it is not considered that the addition would give rise to significant overlooking concerns.

Due to the domestic nature of the proposed development, it is considered that there would not be a harmful impact in terms of noise, air and light pollution.

The proposal is therefore considered to comply with Policy DP26 of the District Plan, and the relevant principles of the Mid Sussex Design Guide SPD.

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 proposal is considered to be appropriate in terms of design, size and scale to the dwellinghouse and locality, and would not cause significant harm to the amenities of neighbouring properties.

In conclusion, the proposal complies with Mid Sussex District Plan policy DP26, policies E9 and H9 of the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan, and the relevant provisions of the NPPF. The application is therefore recommended for approval.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Catherine Cardin