

Delegated Decision

Sign off Sheet

Ref. No:	DM/25/2845	Case Officer:	Peter Davies
Application Type:	Householder Application		
Proposal:	External wall insulation to all external walls		
Site:	12 Garden Mead, West Hoathly, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 4QH, , ,		
Validation Date	5 Nov 2025	Overall Expiry Date:	28 Nov 2025
Pre-Commencement Conditions Required:		Pre-Com Conditions Date Agreed:	
Recommendation:	Permission	Recommendation Date:	22 Dec 2025
Target Date:	31 Dec 2025	Recommending Officer Signature:	Peter Davies

Date Legal Agreement Completed: (if applicable)		No of Representations:	0
--	--	-------------------------------	---

Signed and Agreed By:	Stephen Ashdown	Date:	23 Dec 2025
Comments:			

MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL

DM/25/2845

**12 Garden Mead, West Hoathly, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 4QH, ,
External wall insulation to all external walls
Mr Alan White**

REPRESENTATION RECEIVED

None received.

PARISH COUNCIL OBSERVATIONS

The Parish Council has no objections.

INTRODUCTION

The application seeks planning permission for external wall insulation on all external walls.

RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

No relevant history.

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

The application property is a semi-detached two storey dwelling located at the end of the cul-de-sac Garden Mead, within the built-up area boundary of West Hoathly. The property is located within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural beauty.

The property has a pitched roof and is constructed from brick with plain roof tiles and white uPVC fenestration. The dwelling is set back from the highway with hedging to the front. The locality is characterised by two storey dwellings of a similar form with varying scale and design.

APPLICATION DETAILS

The application seeks planning permission for external wall insulation on all external walls. Brick slips will be used and protrude approximately 0.15 metres.

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 West Hoathly 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:

DP16 - High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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.

West Hoathly Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan was made on the 16th April 2015 and forms part of the development plan.

Relevant policies:

None relevant

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 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

DPC4 - High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

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.

High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024 - 2029

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024)

Paragraphs 8, 11, 131, 135 and 189 are considered to be relevant.

National Planning Policy Guidance

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 the High Weald AONB
- Impact on neighbouring properties
- 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.'*

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

It is noted that the streetscene is characterised by a mix type of dwellings with a mix of styles. The proposed material is to be a brick slip to be visually similar to the existing brickwork. Other dwellings along Garden Mead have had approval for similar proposals in applications DM/24/1039 (16 Garden Mead) and DM/24/1040 (17 Garden Mead). Therefore, the proposal would not be out of character with the area, and would comply with policy DP26 of the Mid Sussex District Plan.

Impact on AONB

The legal framework for AONBs, (also known as National Landscapes) in England and Wales is provided by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) 2000 which at Section 82 reaffirms the primary purpose of AONBs: to conserve and enhance natural beauty. Section 84 of the CRoW requires Local Planning Authorities to *'take all such action as appears to them expedient for accomplishment of the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB'*. The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act (2023) amended section 85 of the CRoW Act, to create a new duty on relevant authorities to *'seek to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area when discharging their functions in AONBs'*. A similar ethos is found within The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan which is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications in the AONB.

Paragraph 189 of the NPPF states:

'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads 66.

The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.'

Mid Sussex District Plan policy DP16 states:

'Development within the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), as shown on the Policies Maps, will only be permitted where it conserves or enhances natural beauty and has regard to the High Weald AONB Management Plan, in particular;

- *the identified landscape features or components of natural beauty and to their setting;*
 - *the traditional interaction of people with nature, and appropriate land management;*
 - *character and local distinctiveness, settlement pattern, sense of place and setting of the AONB;*
- and*
- *the conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage.*

Small scale proposals which support the economy and social well-being of the AONB that are compatible with the conservation and enhancement of natural beauty will be supported.

Development on land that contributes to the setting of the AONB will only be permitted where it does not detract from the visual qualities and essential characteristics of the AONB, and in particular'

The proposed works are relatively modest in their nature and the design and character of the proposed works are considered common within the surrounding area. As such it would not have any adverse impact on the landscape quality of the AONB and the complies with the requirements of policy DP16 of the District Plan, High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-2029 and paragraph 189 of the NPPF.

Impact on neighbouring properties

DP26 of the Mid Sussex District Plan 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);'*

Due to the nature of the proposed works they are not considered to cause significant harm to the amenities of nearby residents including taking account of the impact on privacy, outlook, daylight and sunlight, and noise, air and light pollution. The works are therefore, considered to comply with the above-mentioned part of policy DP26 of the Mid Sussex District 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

In conclusion, the proposal is considered to address the character and scale of the existing and surrounding buildings and landscape and it would not cause significant harm to the amenities of neighbouring properties. Therefore, the proposal complies with policies DP16 and DP26 of the Mid Sussex District Plan, the MSDC Design Guide SPD, the West Hoathly Neighbourhood Plan, the High Weald AONB Management Plan 2024-2029 and with the relevant provisions of the NPPF.

Decision: Permission

Case Officer: Peter Davies

