

DECISION DELEGATED TO HEAD OF PLANNING

Application No: H19-0735-22 **Applicant:** Mr & Mrs P Warner
Proposal: Conversion of garage to family/recreation space
Location: Eastlands 94 Highstock Lane Gedney Hill
Terminal Date: 6th October 2022

Planning Policies

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan - Adopted: March 2019

01 Spatial Strategy
02 Development Management
03 Design of New Development
36 Vehicle and Cycle Parking
APPENDIX 6 Parking Standards

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework 2021

Section 12. Achieving well-designed places

Representations:

	Object	Support	No Obj.	Comments
PARISH COUNCIL	0	0	0	0
WARD MEMBER	0	0	0	0

CASE OFFICER ASSESSMENT

Proposal

This is a householder planning application that seeks permission to convert the detached garage to the front into family/recreation space. The external materials would match the existing garage building.

Site Description

The application site is located on Highstock Lane in Gedney Hill. The site is located outside any

defined settlement boundary and is surrounded by open countryside. It comprises a detached dwelling with a double detached garage to the front of the site. There is a gravelled driveway providing further off-street parking provision for several vehicles.

History

No relevant planning history.

Consultation Responses

No representations received.

Principle of development

Section 38 (6) of the Town and Country Planning Act, as amended by the 2004 Act, states that the determination must be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The key material considerations are addressed below.

The site is outside any defined settlement as defined in the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019. Therefore, the site is located within the countryside. Policy 1 of the Local Plan states that "in the Countryside development will be permitted that is necessary to such a location and/or where it can be demonstrated that it meets the sustainable development needs of the area in terms of economic, community or environmental benefits".

In this case, the proposal is to convert the detached garage into additional living accommodation. It is closely related to the main dwelling and its footprint would not increase. Given the ancillary nature of the development, the proposal cannot readily be located elsewhere. Therefore, the principle of development for the proposal is acceptable unless material considerations indicate otherwise, according to section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This is subject to a condition restricting occupation to family members only.

The proposal is in general accordance with Policy 1 of the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, 2019.

Design and layout

Paragraph 130 of National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021 establishes that planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments will function well and add to the overall quality of the area; are visually attractive as a result of good architecture and sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting. Policies 2 and 3 of SELLP 2019 amongst other matters seek to ensure that development respects the character and appearance of the area and the relationship to existing development and its uses.

The proposal would involve minor external alterations including the addition of one rooflight and replacing the garage door with a window. These changes are not considered to alter the overall appearance of the site. The infill bricks would match the existing building therefore it would not materially harm the existing building.

As such the proposed development is considered acceptable in terms of its impact on the character of the existing dwelling and the area therefore it accords with Policies 2 and 3 of the SELLP and the Section 12 of the NPPF.

Residential amenity

Paragraph 130 of National Planning Policy Framework (2021) amongst other matters seeks places with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users. Policies 2 and 3 of South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) set out residential amenity and relationship to existing development and land uses as main considerations when making planning decisions.

Given the remote location of the site there are no immediate neighbours therefore the proposed development would not unacceptably impact neighbouring amenity.

As such it accords with Paragraph 130 of National Planning Policy Framework (2021) and Policies 2 and 3 of South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019).

Car parking provision

In connection with Policy 36 of SELLP 2019, Appendix 6 sets out the minimum requirements for car parking provision. The development would result in the loss of the existing garages, however, sufficient off-street parking would be retained in the driveway to the front.

As such the scheme is considered to comply with the current parking standards.

Planning Balance

The principle of a converting the garage into habitable space, ancillary to the main dwelling on the site is acceptable. The proposal involves minor external alterations which are not considered to significantly later the overall appearance of the building. It is considered that the development would not harm neighbouring amenity given its remote location.

On balance, no adverse impact of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits of doing so, when assessed against the planning policies taken as a whole.

Conclusion

Section 38 (6) of the Town and Country Planning Act, as amended by the 2004 Act, states that the determination must be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Taking into account the above, this application accords with Policies 1, 2, 3, 36 and Appendix 6 of South East Lincolnshire Local Plan (2019) as well as Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019).

Accordingly, it is recommended to approve this application via delegated powers.

Additional Considerations

Public Sector Equality Duty

In making this decision the Authority must have regard to the public sector equality duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equalities Act. This means that the Council must have due regard to the need (in discharging its functions) to:

A. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act

B. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This may include removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; taking steps to meet the special needs of those with a protected characteristic; encouraging participation in public life (or other areas where they are underrepresented) of people with a protected characteristic(s).

C. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The PSED must be considered as a relevant factor in making this decision but does not impose a duty to achieve the outcomes in s.149. It is only one factor that needs to be considered, and may be balanced against other relevant factors.

It is not considered that the recommendation in this case will have a disproportionately adverse impact on a protected characteristic.

Human Rights

In making a decision, the Authority should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998. Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as South Holland District Council to act in a manner that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The Authority is referred specifically to Article 8 (right to respect for

private and family life) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property).

It is not considered that the recommendation in this case interferes with local residents' right to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence, except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general public interest and the recommendation is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The application can be approved under delegated powers.