

DELEGATED HOUSEHOLDER APPLICATION REPORT

Application No: 200421/HOU

Address: 77 Balmore Drive

Applicant: Mr Matthew Emmitt

Proposal: Hip-to-gable loft conversion (amended description)

Target date: 29/05/20

Case officer: Connie Davis

Site Description and Surrounding Area:

The application site sits within Balmore Drive, a private residential road. The road is characterised by pairs of semi-detached 1930s properties of fairly uniform design and primarily hip roofs. Properties have a front bay window at ground and first floor level and are primarily finished in red-brick, although some do have pebbledash/ render at first floor level. Street trees line both sides of the road.

The property is not listed, nor in a conservation area.

Proposal:

Planning permission is sought for a hip-to-gable roof alteration to facilitate a loft conversion. Two front and rear rooflights are proposed along with a first floor side window for the landing.

Materials are proposed to match the host dwelling.

Plans Considered:

EMMETT-0220-06 - Block & Location Plans

EMMETT-0220-04 - Existing Plans & Elevations

EMMETT-0220-02 - Proposed First Floor Plan

Received 18th March 2020

EMMETT-0220-03 Rev B - Proposed Elevations

Received 18th May 2020

EMMETT-0220-01 Rev B - Proposed Loft Floor Plan

Received 21st May 2020

Relevant Planning History:

162299 - Rear extension measuring 5.3m in depth, with a maximum height of 3.3m, and 3.0m in height to eaves level. Notification of the construction of an extension under class A Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 - Application Refused

Consultation Responses:

Internal Consultees

Ecology - No objections.

External Consultation

The following addresses were formally consulted via letter on 03/04/20:

76 and 78 Balmore Drive

In addition, a site notice was displayed between 2nd - 23rd April 2020.

No responses have been received.

Discussions with applicant/ agent

During the course of the application, the proposed rear dormer was removed from the proposal. The dormer was not considered fully compliant with design policy/ guidance in terms of its scale and fenestration arrangement. The amendments did not wish to be made under this application. The applicant stated they may look in to constructing a rear dormer under permitted development.

Equality Act 2010:

In determining this application the Council is required to have regard to its obligations under the Equality Act 2010. However, there is no indication or evidence (including from consultation on the application) that the protected groups identified by the Act have or will have different needs, experiences, issues and priorities in relation to this particular planning application. Therefore in terms of the key equalities protected characteristics it is considered there would be no significant adverse impacts as a result of the development.

Relevant Planning Policy and Guidance

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that proposals be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Material considerations include relevant policies in the National Planning Policy framework (NPPF) - among them the 'presumption in favour of sustainable development'.

The following local and national planning policy and guidance is relevant to this application:

National

National Planning Policy Framework;
National Planning Policy Guidance;

Reading Borough Local Plan (2019)

CC7 Design and the Public Realm
CC8 Safeguarding Amenity
H9 House Extensions and Ancillary Accommodation

Supplementary Planning Guidance - A Design Guide to House Extensions (2003)

Appraisal Checklist

H9 states: An extension to a house will be acceptable where it:

A. Respects the character of the house in terms of scale, location, materials and design;

To assess this, the following has been considered - would the proposal:

- Detract from the appearance of the original building through the use of ill-matching materials and by not fitting in with the design, scale and proportions of the original building; **NO**
- Reduce the amount of usable amenity space for the property to an unacceptable degree; **NO**
- Require the loss of trees in the garden or put significant trees at risk; **NO**

B. Respects the character and pattern of neighbouring properties and appearance of the street as a whole in terms of scale, location, materials and design, the arrangement of doors, windows and other principal architectural features and any important existing building line;

& C. Does not present an overbearing impact on neighbours or a large blank façade to public areas

To assess this, the following has been considered - would the proposal:

- Significantly reduce the amount of daylight and sunlight enjoyed by neighbouring properties; **NO**
- Invade the privacy of neighbouring properties through overlooking from windows or balconies; **NO**, a side window is proposed for the landing. However this is not considered a habitable space so is unlikely to result in substantial overlooking to neighbours.
- Detract from the character of neighbouring properties through siting, excessive bulk, ill-matching materials or inconsistent design; **NO**, although many properties within Balmore Drive have hip roofs, there are some examples of hip-to-gable developments (see photograph at the end of the report). As such, it is not considered this development would be out of keeping with the surrounding street scene to a harmful degree given similar examples elsewhere on the road.
- Detract from the appearance of the street or area by using ill-matched materials, glazing and detailing; **NO**, materials are to match the main property.

D. Does not result in a loss of biodiversity within garden - **NO**

E. Ancillary accommodation, such as granny annexes, will be acceptable where it would not be capable of operating as a separate dwelling which could be let or sold separately - **NO**

CC8: states: Development will not cause a detrimental impact on the living environment of existing residential properties or unacceptable living conditions for new residential properties, in terms of:

- Privacy and overlooking; **No**
- Access to sunlight and daylight; **No**
- Visual dominance and overbearing effects of a development; **No**
- Harm to outlook; **No**
- Noise and disturbance; **No**
- Artificial lighting; **No**
- Vibration; **No**
- Dust and fumes; **No**
- Smell; **No**
- Crime and safety; **No** or
- Wind, where the proposals involve new development of more than 8 storeys - **N/A**.

Conclusion

The proposed development would not be harmful to the character or appearance of the site or its surroundings and would not have a detrimental impact on the original building or neighbouring properties. As such the proposed works are considered to be in accordance with CC7 (Design and the Public Realm), CC8 (Safeguarding Amenity) and H9 (House Extensions and Ancillary Accommodation) of the Reading Borough Local Plan (2019) along with the Councils Supplementary Planning Guidance A Design Guide to House Extensions (2003).

RECOMMENDATION: GRANT PERMISSION

Conditions

1. TL1 - 3 year time limit.
2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans:

EMMETT-0220-06 - Block & Location Plans
 EMMETT-0220-02 - Proposed First Floor Plan

Received 18th March 2020

EMMETT-0220-03 Rev B - Proposed Elevations

Received 18th May 2020

EMMETT-0220-01 Rev B - Proposed Loft Floor Plan

Received 21st May 2020

REASON: because permission is granted in respect of the development as detailed in the approved plans only.

3. Matching materials

Informatives

1. Building Control
2. Construction & Demolition
3. Terms
4. Encroachment
5. Positive and Proactive

1HA

APPENDIX - Photographs taken by the applicant as the case officer was not able to carry out a site visit due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

