

**Section '3' - Applications recommended for PERMISSION, APPROVAL or CONSENT**

**Application No :** 15/01312/FULL1

**Ward:**  
Petts Wood And Knoll

**Address :** 6 Ladywood Avenue Petts Wood  
Orpington BR5 1QJ

**OS Grid Ref:** E: 545361 N: 167699

**Applicant :** Mr Simon Rockall

**Objections :** YES

**Description of Development:**

Demolition of 6 Ladywood Avenue (former Friends Meeting House) and construction of 2 no. two storey detached five bedroom dwellings with new vehicular access and associated parking and landscaping

Key designations:

Area of Special Residential Character  
Biggin Hill Safeguarding Birds  
Biggin Hill Safeguarding Area  
London City Airport Safeguarding  
Open Space Deficiency  
Smoke Control SCA 4

**The application was deferred by Members without prejudice on 2nd July 2015 in order to seek a reduction in the proposal to one dwellinghouse.**

The applicant confirmed that they do not intend to change the scheme and offered the following information in response:

Whilst the existing and historic use of the property had wound down over a period of years, it was a non-conforming use and one that could potentially give significant rise to traffic and parking issues as there are no controls over the current use. In contrast, two, detached family houses would be entirely compatible and in keeping with neighbouring dwellings and the Area of Special Residential Character.

The suggestion that the scheme can be reduced from two houses to one would be both commercially unviable and in our view, unnecessary given the high quality design and clear benefits of the scheme. It is also pointed out that originally when the area was developed in the late 1920s/early 1930s, the site was actually designed as two separate plots in the same manner now being proposed.

The remainder of the report remains as previously presented to Members on 2nd July 2015.

## **Proposal**

- The application seeks permission for the demolition of 6 Ladywood Avenue (former Friends Meeting House) and the construction of 2 no. two storey detached five bedroom dwellings with new vehicular access and associated parking and landscaping.
- One new detached garage is proposed to the north-west corner of the site which would be accessed via Greencourt Road. The existing vehicular access along Greencourt Road would also still be utilised.
- The building is currently vacant but prior to this it was used as a friends meeting house of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). This use ceased on 6th April 2014 and the building has been vacant since this date.
- There are two trees located close to the northern property boundaries that are subject to a Tree Preservation Order (TPO); one ash and one sycamore.

## **Location**

The application site is located on the corner of Ladywood Avenue and Greencourt Road, set within the Petts Wood Area of Special Residential Character. At present the site comprises a large two storey property that fronts Ladywood Avenue and the area is residential in nature.

## **Consultations**

### **Comments from Local Residents**

Nearby owners/occupiers were notified of the application and their comments can be summarised as follows:

- o In general are supportive of the scheme but do have concerns regarding change to outlook;
- o Existing outlook is over the plot of the garden and grounds, with no view of existing building;
- o Part of the proposed development will encroach on this outlook, but also that any further permitted development would be of greater detriment;
- o Note that double yellow line parking restrictions are planned to remain which are supported and should remain in force;
- o Note that the plot was originally planned for 2 dwellings (mentioned by the developer) but this surely would have been for semi-detached dwellings and not 2 detached dwellings?
- o Appendix 1 of the UDP refers to the predominant character and appearance of the Petts Wood ASRC;
- o The existing site comprises one detached property with generous spacing and mature trees along Greencourt Road;
- o Accept that the existing building on the plot stands out as an anomaly compared with predominant pattern of development within this ASRC, and

- that originally the design was for two plots, this does not itself contribute a reason for approving the application;
- o The original design was more than likely for 2 modest semi-detached houses, not for two very large, over-dominant detached houses;
  - o Proposed buildings almost 3 times the size of neighbouring dwellings with gardens a fraction of the size;
  - o Approval of scheme would constitute overdevelopment of the ASRC and contrary to UPD policies;
  - o Agree more housing is needed in the UK, but the demand is not for £1m plus properties and is therefore not a valid consideration;
  - o The site does currently positively contribute to the verdant and open streetscene in this part of the ASRC;
  - o Object to landscaping to the front of the site, will be to the detriment to the ASRC;
  - o Existing trees along Greencourt Road boundary positively contribute to the streetscene and if removed, they should be replaced with similar examples;
  - o Level of hard landscaping is inappropriate in the ASRC;
  - o Second property is to be built three stories high with a large window at the top of the dwelling which will overlook property on Greencourt Road;
  - o Inappropriate to have a detached garage to the property nearest Greencourt Road;
  - o No similar examples on corner plots within the ASRC, and the garage should be made integral to the host dwelling;
  - o Acknowledge that the existing building is in need of repair and positively support the conversion of the existing building to solely residential use;
  - o However close attention should be paid to the likely impact of the proposal on the character and appearance of the surrounding area, the amenities of neighbouring residential properties, having particular regard to indicative layout and design of the proposed scheme, and the impact upon the Petts Wood ASRC.

### **Comments from Consultees**

The Council's Highways Engineer raised no objection to the proposal. It was stated that Plot 1 has a new crossover with parking on the frontage for 3 cars, and will also utilise the existing crossover on Greencourt Road with a garage and another parking space. Plot 2 will have a new crossover leading to a good sized garage and other parking on the frontage.

The Council's Drainage Engineer stated that they accept the proposed initial drainage strategy to include two soakaways for each property, one at the front and one at the back of the property to attenuate for surface water run-off. It is accepted that the details design will be submitted at a later stage. It was also considered that the site appears to be suitable for an assessment to be made of its potential for a SUDS scheme to be developed for the disposal of surface water.

Environmental Health (Housing) stated that the applicant is advised to have regard to the Housing Act 1985's statutory space standards contained within Part X of the

Act and the Housing Act 2004's housing standards contained within the Housing Health and Safety Rating System under Part 1 of the Act.

Thames Water raised no objection to the proposal.

## **Planning Considerations**

The proposal falls to be considered primarily with regard to the following policies of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP):

H1 Housing Supply  
H7 Housing Density and Design  
H9 Side Space  
H10 Areas of Special Residential Character  
T3 Parking  
T11 New Accesses  
T18 Road Safety  
BE1 Design of New Development  
NE7 Development and Trees  
C1 Community Facilities

Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 1 General Design Principles  
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) 2 Residential Design Guidance

London Plan policies:

3.3 Increasing Housing Supply  
3.4 Optimising Housing Potential  
3.5 Design and Quality of Housing Developments  
3.8 Housing Choice  
5.1 Climate Change  
5.2 Minimising Carbon Dioxide Emissions  
5.3 Sustainable Design and Construction  
6.9 Cycling  
6.13 Parking

National Planning Policy Framework

All new housing should also be designed to meet the changing needs of Londoners over their lifetimes and 10% of new housing should be designed to be wheelchair accessible or easily adaptable for residents who are wheelchair users. The application does include the 16 point checklist to demonstrate that all dwellings will comply with the Lifetime Homes Standard, within a Lifetime Homes/Wheelchair Housing Statement.

## **Planning History**

No relevant planning history at the site.

## **Conclusions**

All new development should seek to optimise the potential of a site, and such development should, amongst other things, be attractive and respect local context, character and built heritage in accordance with the policies quoted above. The application site is located within the Petts Wood Area of Special Residential Character (ASRC) and as such, it is even more important that any development proposals within the ASRC should respect and complement the established and individual qualities of the individual areas. The original plans for the Petts Wood ASRC date from the late 1920s and early 1930s, and whilst the houses were built over a number of years, the road layout and plot sizes were established in an overall pattern and the layout remains largely intact today. Therefore any development proposal on this plot should respect this existing character within the wider area.

In terms of the principle of the redevelopment of the site for residential use, it is considered that is acceptable. The existing building is not considered to be of any particular architectural merit and whilst the area is characterised by large detached dwellings, there is no particular uniformity in terms of the design of the properties. The use of the existing building was for a Friends Meeting House of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), where meeting worship was held, with the upper floor being used as ancillary residential accommodation for the full-time resident caretaker.

The South East London Meeting agreed to close the Petts Wood facility on 16th March 2014 and relocate to a new Orpington Quaker Meeting place, with the last Petts Wood meeting being held on 6th April 2014, with the building being vacant since this time.

The property was marketed by an estate agent who released the property on internet portals (Rightmove, Prime Location etc) and their own website, hosted an open day, and advertised the property in the local newspaper. A copy of the marketing brochure was provided in Appendix B of the Design and Access Statement submitted as part of the planning application.

The feedback from the marketing resulted in 37 viewings, some taking second viewings. 85% of the viewings were reported to be by parties looking to redevelop the site rather than owner occupiers, and no interest was shown by any party proposing to use the property as a community facility. This highlighted that the premises is not considered to be attractive to local community groups.

Policy C1 of the Unitary Development Plan states in effect that permission will not be granted for proposals that would lead to the loss of community facilities unless it can be demonstrated that there is no longer a need for them or alternative provision is to be made in an equally accessible location.

As can be seen from the marketing evidence submitted, attempts were made at advertising the property as a community facility but it was clear from the people viewing the property and the feedback received that there was no local need for a community facility in this location. The previous group that used the property relocated to an alternative premises in Orpington, and the premises has been

vacant ever since. On this basis, it is considered that the need for the existing community building has ceased and despite appropriate marketing, no other community groups have been attracted to the premises, In addition notwithstanding this, there are numerous alternative facilities located within Petts Wood which are better located closer to transport links and which have a much broader community application already. As such, it is considered that the requirements on policy C1 have been met and on balance, the demolition of the property is not resisted.

The proposed new dwelling on plot 1 would have a minimum separation to the southern property boundary (shared with No.8) of approximately 1.3 metres at the closest part increasing to approximately 1.8 metres, and a separation to the northern property boundary (shared with proposed plot 2) of approximately 1.5 metres.

The proposed new dwelling on plot 2 would have a minimum separation to the southern property boundary (shared with proposed plot 1) of approximately 1.5 metres, and a minimum separation to the northern property boundary (shared with the corner of Greencourt Road) of approximately 3.3 metres, increasing at various points to a maximum separation of approximately 5.3 metres. The greatest level of separation at this plot would be towards the front of the proposed new dwelling.

These proposed levels of spatial standards between the proposed new dwellings and the neighbouring property boundaries are considered to be in keeping with the prevailing character of the area, and the larger separation to the corner with Greencourt Road is considered suitable in order to prevent a cramped form of development on this corner location and undue harm to the character of the ASRC.

The front elevation of the proposed dwellings would be built roughly in line with the front elevation of No.8 Ladywood Avenue and the properties further along this section of the road, with the two storey element of the proposed property on Plot 1 largely in line with the rear elevation of No.8, with a single storey element projecting beyond this. There is a significant degree of separation between the single storey rear element the proposed dwelling at Plot 1 and No.8 Ladywood Avenue, and it is considered that this, along with the orientation of the properties, helps to prevent detrimental harm to the visual and residential amenities and levels of natural light afforded to No.8 Ladywood Avenue.

There is a general design form of properties along Ladywood Road. The current proposal includes details of the materials that would be used for the proposed dwellings, and these along with the design are considered to match the existing design features within the streetscene, which will enhance the character of the streetscene and ASRC in general. A street scene plan has also been submitted which is considered to help in terms of the context along the road and how the proposed dwellings would fit into the streetscene. This indicates that the maximum height of the proposed dwellings would match the height of Nos. 8, 10, 12 and 14 Ladywood Avenue, which is considered important in terms of the impact upon the visual amenities of the ASRC and the residential amenities of the occupiers of no.8 Ladywood Road and properties on the opposite side of Ladywood Road in particular.

The proposed dwellings would meet London Plan minimum sizes and would provide a good standard of accommodation for future occupiers. In addition, all new housing should also be designed to meet the changing needs of Londoners over their lifetimes and 10% of new housing should be designed to be wheelchair accessible or easily adaptable for residents who are wheelchair users. The application does include the 16 point checklist to demonstrate that all dwellings will comply with the Lifetime Homes Standard, within a Lifetime Homes/Wheelchair Housing Statement.

The proposed development is likely to be liable for a charge under the Community Infrastructure Levy for Mayoral CIL as it involves the creation of new residential floor area, however this charge is not payable until after development begins.

On balance, it is considered that introducing 2 new residential dwellings at this site is in keeping with the prevailing character of the area and as such is considered acceptable.

The proposal is considered to comply with Chapter 3 of the London Plan (2011) and the Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Accessible London: Achieving an Inclusive Environment.' Furthermore, in relation to the current application the proposed residential accommodation would meet London Plan minimum sizes and would provide a good standard of accommodation for future occupiers, and no concerns were raised by Environmental Health notwithstanding the need to have regard to the Housing Act 1985's statutory space standards contained within Part X of the Act and the Housing Act 2004's housing standards.

Members will note that key planning considerations must include impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties and the impact upon the Petts Wood Area of Special Residential Character, however on balance it is considered that the relationship to neighbouring buildings, and the possibility of overlooking, noise and disturbance by reason of the introduction of two new residential dwellings to this site will not have a detrimental impact on the residential and visual amenities of the neighbouring properties, nor will the proposal have a negative impact upon the character of the ASRC generally.

Background papers referred to during production of this report comprise all correspondence on the file ref(s) 15/01312, set out in the Planning History section above, excluding exempt information.

## **RECOMMENDATION: PERMISSION**

### **Subject to the following conditions:**

- 1 The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of 3 years, beginning with the date of this decision notice.**

**Reason: Section 91, Town and Country Planning Act 1990.**

- 2** The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in complete accordance with the plans approved under this planning permission unless previously agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

**Reason:**In order to comply with Policy BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan and in the interest of the appearance of the building and the visual amenities of the area

- 3** Details of a scheme of landscaping, which shall include the materials of paved areas and other hard surfaces, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before the commencement of the development hereby permitted. The approved scheme shall be implemented in the first planting season following the first occupation of the buildings or the substantial completion of the development, whichever is the sooner. Any trees or plants which within a period of 5 years from the substantial completion of the development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species to those originally planted.

**Reason:** In order to comply with Policy BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan and to secure a visually satisfactory setting for the development.

- 4** Before any part of the development hereby permitted is first occupied boundary enclosures of a height and type to be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority shall be erected in such positions along the boundaries of the site(s) as shall be approved and shall be permanently retained thereafter.

**Reason:** In order to comply with Policy BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan and in the interest of visual amenity and the amenities of adjacent properties.

- 5** Details of the materials to be used for the external surfaces of the building shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before any work is commenced. The works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

**Reason:**In order to comply with Policy BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan and in the interest of the appearance of the building and the visual amenities of the area

- 6** Details of the windows (including rooflights and dormers where appropriate) including their materials, method of opening and drawings showing sections through mullions, transoms and glazing bars and sills, arches, lintels and reveals (including dimension of any recess) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the

**Local Planning Authority before any work is commenced. The windows shall be installed in accordance with the approved details.**

**Reason:**In order to comply with Policy BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan and in the interest of the appearance of the building and the visual amenities of the area.

- 7** Details of a surface water drainage system (including storage facilities where necessary) shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before any part of the development hereby permitted is commenced and the approved system shall be completed before any part of the development hereby permitted is first occupied, and permanently retained thereafter.

**Reason:**To ensure satisfactory implementation of the surface water drainage proposals and to accord with Policy 4A.14 of the London Plan

- 8** No development shall take place until details of drainage works have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority, and drainage works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details prior to first use of any dwelling. Prior to the submission of those details, an assessment shall be carried out into the potential for disposing of surface water by means of a sustainable drainage system in accordance with the principles of sustainable drainage systems set out in Annex F of PPS25, and the results of the assessment provided to the Local Planning Authority. Where a sustainable drainage system scheme (SuDS) is to be implemented, the submitted details shall:

**i) provide information about the design storm period and intensity, the method employed to delay and control the surface water discharged from the site and the measures taken to prevent pollution of the receiving groundwater and / or surface waters;**

**ii) specify the responsibilities of each party for the implementation of the SuDS scheme, together with a timetable for that implementation; and**

**iii) provide a management and maintenance plan for the lifetime of the development, which shall include the arrangements for adoption by any public authority or statutory undertaker and any other arrangements to secure the operation of the scheme throughout its lifetime.**

**The scheme shall be implemented, maintained and managed in accordance with the approved details**

**Reason:**To ensure satisfactory means of surface water drainage and to accord with Policy 5.13 of the London Plan

- 9** Before commencement of the use of the land or building hereby permitted parking spaces and/or garages and turning space shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and thereafter shall be kept available for such use and no permitted development whether permitted by the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (England) 2015 (or any Order amending, revoking and re-enacting this Order) or not shall be carried out on the land or garages indicated or in such a position as to preclude vehicular access to the said land or garages.

**Reason:**In order to comply with Policy T3 of the Unitary Development Plan and to avoid development without adequate parking or garage provision, which is likely to lead to parking inconvenient to other road users and would be detrimental to amenities and prejudicial to road safety.

- 10** While the development hereby permitted is being carried out a suitable hardstanding shall be provided with wash-down facilities for cleaning the wheels of vehicles and any accidental accumulation of mud of the highway caused by such vehicles shall be removed without delay and in no circumstances be left behind at the end of the working day.

**Reason:**In the interest of pedestrian and vehicular safety and in order to comply with Policy T18 of the Unitary Development Plan.

- 11** Surface water from private land shall not discharge on to the highway. Details of the drainage system for surface water drainage to prevent the discharge of surface water from private land on to the highway shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to commencement of works. Before any part of the development hereby permitted is first occupied, the drainage system shall be completed in accordance with the approved details and shall be retained permanently thereafter.

**Reason:**To ensure satisfactory means of surface water drainage and to accord with Policy 4A.14 of the London Plan and Planning Policy Statement 25.

- 12** Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (or any Order amending, revoking and re-enacting this Order) no building, structure or alteration permitted by Class A, B, C, or E of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the 2015 Order (as amended), shall be erected or made within the curtilage(s) of the dwelling(s) hereby permitted without the prior approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

**In order to comply with Policies H7 and BE1 and to prevent overdevelopment of the site.**

**13** Before the development hereby permitted is first occupied, the proposed window(s) shall be obscure glazed in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and shall subsequently be permanently retained as such.

**Reason:**In order to comply with Policy of the Unitary Development Plan and in the interest of the amenities of the adjacent properties.

**14** No windows or doors additional to those shown on the permitted drawing(s) shall at any time be inserted in the elevation(s) of the \*\*\*\* hereby permitted, without the prior approval in writing of the Local Planning Authority.

**Reason:**In order to comply with Policy of the Unitary Development Plan and in the interest of the amenities of the adjacent properties.

**15** Details of the proposed slab levels of the building(s) and the existing site levels shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before work commences and the development shall be completed strictly in accordance with the approved levels.

**Reason:**In order to comply with Policy BE1 of the Unitary Development Plan and in the interest of the visual and residential amenities of the area.

You are further informed that :

**1** You should contact extension 4621 (020 8313 4621 direct line) at the Environmental Services Department at the Civic Centre with regard to the laying out of the crossover(s) and/or reinstatement of the existing crossover(s) as footway. A fee is payable for the estimate for the work which is refundable when the crossover (or other work) is carried out. A form to apply for an estimate for the work can be obtained by telephoning the Highways Customer Services Desk on the above number.

**2** You are advised that this application may be liable for the payment of the Mayoral Community Infrastructure Levy under the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010) and the Planning Act 2008. The London Borough of Bromley is the Collecting Authority for the Mayor and this Levy is payable on the commencement of development (defined in Part 2, para 7 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010)). It is the responsibility of the owner and /or person(s) who have a material interest in the relevant land to pay the Levy (defined under Part 2, para 4(2) of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations (2010)).

If you fail to follow the payment procedure, the collecting authority may impose surcharges on this liability, take enforcement action, serve a stop notice to prohibit further development on the site and/or take action to recover the debt.

Further information about Community Infrastructure Levy can be found on attached information note and the Bromley website [www.bromley.gov.uk/CIL](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/CIL)

- 3 You should consult the Land Charges and Street Naming/Numbering Section at the Civic Centre on 020 8313 4742 or e-mail: [address.management@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:address.management@bromley.gov.uk) regarding Street Naming and Numbering. Fees and application forms are available on the Council's website at [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk)
- 4 The applicant is advised to have regard to the Housing Act 1985's statutory space standards contained within Part X of the Act and the Housing Act 2004's housing standards contained within the Housing Health and Safety Rating System under Part 1 of the Act.
- 5 The applicant is advised that with regard to surface water drainage it is the responsibility of a developer to make proper provision for drainage to ground, water courses or a suitable sewer. In respect of surface water it is recommended that the applicant should ensure that storm flows are attenuated or regulated into the receiving public network through on or off site storage. When it is proposed to connect to a combined public sewer, the site drainage should be separate and combined at the final manhole nearest the boundary. Connections are not permitted for the removal of groundwater. Where the developer proposes to discharge to a public sewer, prior approval from Thames Water Developer Services will be required. They can be contacted on 0800 009 3921. Reason - to ensure that the surface water discharge from the site shall not be detrimental to the existing sewerage system.
- 6 The applicant is advised that Thames Water will aim to provide customers with a minimum pressure of 10m head (approx 1 bar) and a flow rate of 9 litres/minute at the point where it leaves Thames Waters pipes. The developer should take account of this minimum pressure in the design of the proposed development.