

Application No: 16/2648N

Location: 5, COPPICE ROAD, WINTERLEY, CW11 4RN

Proposal: Proposed Residential Development of Three Detached Dwellings and Extension to Existing Dwelling

Applicant: The Estate of Miss M J Swain

### **SUMMARY**

The application site lies within the Winterley settlement boundary where Policy RES.4 of the Local Plan advises that new development in principle is accepted provided that it is on a scale commensurate with the character of the village.

The proposal would bring positive planning benefits such as the provision of new dwellings in a sustainable location and the usual economic and social benefits created in the construction of new dwellings and the spending of the future occupiers in the local area.

No significant highway safety, amenity, design, drainage or flooding or tree concerns would be created and the impact upon the environment would be neutral

As such, the proposed application is recommended for approval.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Approve subject to conditions**

### **REASON FOR REFERRAL**

This application was deferred from the last Committee meeting for more information regarding refuse bin storage/collection.

This application, as originally submitted, been referred to the Southern Planning Committee by Cllr David Marren for the following reasons:

- Loss of amenity
- Over intensive development in a very small village

### **PROPOSAL**

The proposed development has been revised from the scheme as originally submitted by the reduction in one dwelling (from 4 to 3) and all houses are now 2 storeys. The proposal is now

formally submitted as being for 3 no two storey dwellings and a 2 storey side extension to the existing dwelling (number 5 Coppice Road) on site.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The application site relates a residential plot on of back land to the rear of 5 Coppice Road, within the Winterley Settlement Boundary.

The application site is relatively flat and comprises of garden/paddock land. Existing residential development lies to the north, west and south of the site and Open Countryside to the east beyond Coppice Road.

The site is generally un-managed residential garden laid to law and borders with trees/ mature hedges bordering the northern boundary.

## **RELEVANT HISTORY**

None

## **NATIONAL & LOCAL POLICY**

### **National Policy**

The National Planning Policy Framework establishes a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Of particular relevance are paragraphs:

14 - Presumption in favour of sustainable development, 47-50 - Wide choice of quality homes / affordable housing, countryside and 56-68 - Requiring good design

### **Development Plan**

The Development Plan for this area is the Borough of Crewe and Nantwich Replacement Local Plan 2011, which allocates the site, under Policy RES.4, as a Village with a Settlement Boundary.

The relevant saved policies are:

RES.4 – Housing in Villages With Settlement Boundaries  
RES.11 – Improvements and Alterations to Existing Dwellings  
BE.1 – Amenity  
BE.2 – Design  
BE.3 – Access and Parking  
BE.4 – Drainage, Utilities and Resources  
BE.5 – Infrastructure  
BE.6 – Development on Potentially Contaminated Land  
NE.9 – Protected Species  
NE.17 – Pollution Control

### **Supplementary Planning Documents:**

Development on Backland and Gardens

## **Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy – Submission Version (CELP)**

The following are considered relevant material considerations as indications of the emerging strategy:

MP1 - Presumption in favour of sustainable development, PG1 - Overall Development Strategy, PG6 - Spatial Distribution of Development, SD1 - Sustainable Development in Cheshire East, SD2 - Sustainable Development Principles, IN1 – Infrastructure, IN2 - Developer contributions, SC4 - Residential Mix, SC5 - Affordable Homes, SE1 – Design, SE2 - Efficient use of land, SE3 - Biodiversity and geodiversity, SE4 - The Landscape, SE5 - Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland, SE6 - Green Infrastructure, SE9 - Energy Efficient Development, SE12 - Pollution, Land contamination and land instability, SE13 - Flood risk and water management, CO1 - Sustainable Travel and Transport and CO4 - Travel plans and transport assessments

## **CONSULTATIONS**

**Environmental Protection** – No objections subject to conditions relating to piling, dust control, lighting and contaminated land.

**Highways** – The revised plan provides sufficient off street parking within the site for the three units proposed, this is a private drive and no overspill parking on the public highway is envisaged. Advises that there is sufficient space provided for a bin lorry to adequately access the whole site via the driveway. Raises no objection to the revised scheme subject to a condition for a Construction Management Plan to be submitted.

**Forestry** - The majority of this site is formed by an un-managed garden which is devoid of any meaningful tree cover apart from an early mature Chestnut located on the northern boundary. The tree is not considered to be a significant specimen and certainly not worthy of protection as part of a Tree Preservation Order.

It appears from the proposed site plan that there is an intention to retain the Chestnut with the proposed shared private driveway extending through the trees southern Root Protection Area (RPA); this is achievable subject to the driveway not being adopted and the hard surfacing implemented under a 'no dig' construction.

**Ecology** – No objections with recommended conditions relating to safeguarding of nesting birds.

**Haslington Parish Council** – The area of Winterley has been subject to many planning applications and this is another one which needs not only a site visit but the views of the local residents understood.

The application currently shows development up to boundaries which impact on neighbours visual outlook as well as impacting on health and wellbeing through the mental wellbeing.

## **REPRESENTATIONS**

Neighbour notification letters were sent to all adjacent occupants.

19 letters of objection has been received to date concerning the scheme as originally submitted for 4 dwellings. The main areas of concern include;

- Principle of development – garden grabbing, no need for further market housing
- Design – Overdevelopment of site, layout, loss of outlook, form not in keeping, mass and bulk
- Amenity – Loss of outlook, loss of light, loss of privacy
- Highway safety – increase in traffic
- Dangerous access
- Visually overbearing
- Un-neighbourly development
- Increase in light pollution
- Few local amenities
- Refuse collection difficulties
- Loss of view
- Disturbance during construction
- Wildlife

Since the last Committee meeting a further three letters of representation have been received which object to the proposed development of 4 dwellings as originally submitted for the following reasons:

- Loss of privacy to properties on Alsager Road
- Noise and disturbance
- Traffic hazards
- Bin storage
- No need for the proposed development
- Changes to the original plans do not alter the existing objections
- Loss of hedgerows
- Out of character

The revision to the scheme to three x 2 storey dwellings has recently been received. Further limited consultation has been undertaken to adjoining neighbours and the ward members. The consultation period on the latest proposals runs from 14<sup>th</sup> September until 26<sup>th</sup> September, therefore any further representations received will be presented to the Committee via a written update. At the time of report writing no representations pertaining to the revised scheme had been received.

## **APPRAISAL**

### Principle of Development

As the site falls within the Winterley Settlement Boundary, the proposal is subject to Policy RES.4 of the local plan. Policy RES.4 advises that within such settlement boundaries there is a presumption

in favour of development provided that it is in keeping with the village's scale and character and does not conflict with other policies in the local plan.

In response to this policy, the site is not committed for any other purpose in the local plan and the provision of 3 new dwellings would not have a detrimental impact upon the council's housing supply totals. Indeed the provision of new market dwellings represents a planning benefit in light of the Council's 5-year housing land supply position.

As such, new housing in the settlement boundary would be deemed to be acceptable in principle, subject to its adherence with all other relevant local plan policies.

The key issues are:

- The sustainability of the proposal, including its; Environmental, Economic and Social role
- Planning balance

## **Sustainability**

The National Planning Policy Framework definition of sustainable development is:

*“Sustainable means ensuring that better lives for ourselves don't mean worse lives for future generations. Development means growth. We must accommodate the new ways by which we will earn our living in a competitive world. We must house a rising population, which is living longer and wants to make new choices. We must respond to the changes that new technologies offer us. Our lives, and the places in which we live them, can be better, but they will certainly be worse if things stagnate. Sustainable development is about change for the better, and not only in our built environment”*

The NPPF determines that sustainable development includes three dimensions:- economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number of roles:

**an economic role** – contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure;

**a social role** – supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being;

**an environmental role** – contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy

These roles should not be undertaken in isolation, because they are mutually dependent.

## **Economic and Social Role**

It is accepted that the construction of a small housing development of this size would potentially provide local employment opportunities in construction and the wider economic benefits to the construction industry supply chain. There would be some economic and social benefit by virtue of new resident's spending money in the area and using local services.

The provision of 3 additional dwellings to the housing land supply will contribute to the economic and social arms of sustainability.

## **Environmental role**

### **Protected Species**

The Council's Ecologist does not consider that the proposed 3 dwellings would have any significant impact on local wildlife. However, the existing dwelling of 5 Coppice Road has the potential to support bats which are a European Protected Species.

A Protected Species Survey in respects of bat potential in the existing dwelling has been prepared by a suitably experienced ecological consultant. It has concluded that no evidence of roosting bats was recorded. Therefore, the Council's ecologist has been consulted and is satisfied that bats are not reasonably likely to be affected by the proposed development.

A condition regarding the safeguarding of nesting birds has been recommended by the Council's ecologist.

### **Design**

Policy BE.2 of the Local Plan states that the proposal should be sympathetic to the character, appearance and form of the site and the surrounding area in terms of: The height, scale, form and grouping of the building, choice of materials and external design features. Policies SE1 and SD2 of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy – Submission Version, largely reflect the Local Plan policy.

The application seeks the erection of 3 detached dwellings within the curtilage and backland of number 5 Coppice Way and a two storey side extension to the existing number 5.

It is proposed that the access to the site shall be via a new access to the side of the existing to 5 Coppice Road with the existing making way for the proposed extension.

The proposed dwellings will be sited to the rear garden of existing garden of no 5, however this is not considered to be significantly out of character with the surrounding built form as a similar situation exists with the dwellings of Bowkers Croft to the south. Furthermore, the density of the development created as a result of this additional built form is not considered to be out of character with the immediate area. The layout of the development is therefore considered to be acceptable.

With regards to form, the existing development in the surrounding area is made up of predominantly two storey semi and detached dwellings with a row of 5 bungalows along Crewe Road to the west. With this in mind it is considered that the proposed two storey dwellings will be an acceptable form of development when viewed in context with the surrounding area.

The proposed dwellings of plots 1, 2 and 3 would have a roof ridge height of approximately 1.8 metres and be two storey in nature. As the predominant form of development in the locality is two storey then these heights would be considered acceptable.

In terms of scale, the footprints of the proposed dwellings would not appear incongruous within the area.

The proposed two storey side extension of the existing 5 Coppice Road will project by 4.1 metres from the existing side elevation, have a length of 8.3 metres and a roof ridge height of 8.4 metres. It will have a lower roof ridge than the existing and will be stepped back from the existing front elevation. Therefore, it will appear subordinate to the existing dwelling allowing the original character to be retained. As a result the proposed two storey side extension is considered to be respectful of the host dwelling and those in the surrounding area.

As such, subject to the conditioning of the proposed materials, it is considered that the proposals would be of an acceptable design that would adhere with Policy BE.2 of the Local Plan and policies SE1 and SD2 of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy – Submission Version.

### Trees and Landscape

As stated above by the Council's Landscape Officer the majority of the site is an un-managed garden without any tree cover other than a Chestnut to the northern boundary. This tree is not considered worthy of a Tree Preservation Order.

The submitted plans show the Chestnut tree as being retained, however the proposed driveway is likely to extend through the Root Protection Area. Any potential damage to this tree caused by the construction works can be mitigated through a 'no dig' construction and conditioned as such.

The final landscaping as the site will be secured through a condition attached to any permission.

Overall, it is not considered that the proposed development would raise any landscape concerns. As such, subject to the above, it is considered that the proposed development would adhere to Policy BE.2 of the Local Plan.

### Residential Amenity

In terms of neighbouring residential amenity there are a number of existing properties that lie adjacent to the application site. Following previous representations revised plans have been submitted to address the concerns raised.

With regards to these revised plans number 7 Coppice Way now lies approximately 23 metres from the nearest of the proposed dwellings (plot 3) at the closest point, including the conservatory of number 7. The two dwellings here are not directly facing with plot 3 being offset. Furthermore the rear elevation of number 7 Coppice Road generally faces towards the side elevation of plot 3. This distance of 23 metres is in excess of the 13.5 metres as recommended paragraph 3.9 of the SPD.

The detached garage of plot 3 is closer to number 7 at approximately 6.5 metres, however this is single storey at approximately 4.6 metres. Therefore, combined with the boundary treatment, it is not considered that there will be an impact on the residential amenity of 7 Coppice Road.

The east elevation of plot 3 does not contain any principal windows, with the separation distance between this and the neighbouring number 7 being 23 metres, in excess of the recommended 21 metres in the SPD. Further to this there is not a directly facing relationship between the proposed and existing.

The rear elevation (south) of the proposed dwelling of plot 3 faces onto to part of the rear garden of number 7, however it does not contain any principal windows at first floor level. The principal windows at ground floor level will be mitigated by the existing/proposed boundary treatment.

To the other side of the application site lies number 3 Coppice Road, this dwelling lies approximately 25 metres from the closest of the proposed dwellings (plot 3). As with number 7, this property faces towards the side elevation of the proposed and is not in a directly facing relationship.

The distance from plot 3 to number 3 Coppice Road is approximately 25 metres.

There are a number of existing dwellings to the north of the application site along Alsager Road. These properties enjoy long rear gardens, as such the closest distance between these dwellings and the proposed is approximately 38 metres when measures from the rear of number 31 to plot 3.

To the west are several dwellings along Crewe Road, these properties also have substantial gardens. The closest of the proposed dwellings (plot 1) is approximately 20 metres when measured at the closest point. Several dwellings of Bowkers Croft face on to the application site, these are located to the south west. The separation distances here are approximately 18.5 metres at the closest point. To follow on from this, the two proposed dwellings of plots 1 and 2 do not have a directly facing relationship with any of the properties along Crewe Road or Bowkers Croft.

With the above in mind it is not considered that the proposed development will lead to a significant harm upon the residential amenity of the existing neighbouring dwellings around the application site.

Sufficient private amenity space would be provided for each of the 3 properties in excess of the 50 sq metres recommended within the SPD.

Turning to a consideration of the amenity implications of the proposed 2 storey side extension. There will be a principal window to the ground floor of the side elevation that faces the adjacent property of 3 Coppice Road. This neighbouring property is approximately 10 metres away with



a side to side elevation relationship. Number 3 is also stepped back from number 5, furthermore the side elevation of number 3 is free of any windows. As such it is not considered that the proposed two storey side extension will have a detrimental effect on the amenity of 3 Coppice Road.

As a result of the above, it is considered that the proposed development would adhere with Policy BE.1 of the Local Plan.

### Highway Safety

Vehicle access to these properties will be via a newly formed access to the side of the existing and taken off Coppice Road.

The Council's Head of Strategic Infrastructure (HSI) has advised that off-road parking is adequate and the proposal will have no material impact on the highway.

The amended plans demonstrate that a refuse vehicle is able to enter and exit the site in a forward gear. This will negate the need for a communal bin storage/collection area to back of pavement.

Overall it is considered that the proposed development will not have any significant traffic impacts.

As such, it is considered that the proposal adheres with Policy BE.3 of the Local Plan.

### Flood Risk and Drainage

The application site does not fall within a Flood Risk Zone and is not of a scale that requires the submission of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA).

United Utilities have reviewed the submission and advised that they have no objections to the development subject to informatives.

As such, it is not considered that the proposed development would create any significant flooding or drainage concerns and would adhere with Policies BE.4 of the Local Plan.

### Conclusion

The proposed revised development for the 3 new dwellings would be of an acceptable design that would not create any significant issues in relation to highway safety, drainage or flooding. The proposed extension is considered to be of an appropriate design which raises no amenity concerns for the neighbours or the locality.

As such, it is considered that the proposed development would be environmentally neutral.

### **Planning Balance**

The application site lies within the Winterley Village settlement boundary where Policy RES.4 of the Local Plan advises that new development in principle is accepted.

The proposal would bring positive planning benefits such as the provision of new dwellings in a sustainable location and the usual economic benefits created in the construction of new dwellings and the spending of the future occupiers in the local area. The provision of new housing is a social benefit

No significant highway safety, amenity, design, drainage or flooding or tree concerns would be created. Accordingly, the application is considered to be environmentally neutral

As such, the proposed application comprises sustainable development and is recommended for approval.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **APPROVE subject to conditions**

- 1. Time (3 years)**
- 2. Plans**
- 3. Materials as per application**
- 4. Scheme of landscaping**
- 5. Removal of PD rights A-E**
- 6. Tree protection**
- 7. No dig construction**
- 8. Boundary treatments**
- 9. Levels**
- 10. Nesting birds**
- 11. Drainage scheme**
- 12. External lighting**
- 13. Dust control**
- 14. Piling**
- 15. Contaminated land**
- 16. Construction Management Plan**

#### **Informatives:**

- 1. NPPF**
- 2. Hours of construction**

