

Planning

Growth & Development

Delegated officer report for planning application

Application no. 133440/FH/2022
Date registered valid: 8 April 2022
Proposal: Erection of first floor balcony with associated elevational alterations
Address: 9 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
Ward(s): Crumpsall Ward

Applicant: Mr Gurnoor Singh 9 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
Agent (if any): M Farooq Building Design Services Via Email
Case officer: Katie Raw
Tel: 0161 234 4164
Email: katie.raw@manchester.gov.uk

Recommendation: Approve
Date of recommendation: 25 May 2022

Application details

Type of application: Full Householder Application

Development type: Householder

Date of site visit: 26 April 2022

Standard consultations:

No consultations have been printed and sent.

Neighbour notifications

Printed: 13 April 2022 Expired: 4 May 2022

Site notice

No site notice has been produced

Press advert

No press advert had been published

Departure from Development Plan: No

Environmental Statement: Not required

Description of site/building

Listed building: Not applicable

Conservation area:

Tree Preservation Order:

Description of area

The application site relates to 9 Bettwood Drive within the Crumpsall ward of north Manchester. It is a two storey, detached, red brick property. The area above front porch has a natural set back from the primary building line and the property has differing roof levels. The property benefits from amenity space to the front in the form of a built-in garage and a driveway and the property benefits from further amenity space to the rear.

Description of development

The submitted application seeks planning permission for the erection of first floor balcony with associated elevational alterations. The balcony would be located on top of the existing front porch and the roof of the front porch would change so that a balcony could be erected above. The proposal would have approximate dimensions of Height: 1.11 x Length: 1.11 x Width: 3.12 metres. Access to the balcony would be possible from the first floor landing through the insertion of doors to replace the existing window, and the balcony would be made of metal railings.

Planning history

No planning history exists for this site.

Consultations & Notification Responses

Local residents

The occupiers of the surrounding properties were consulted, and no representations were received.

Issues

POLICY

The National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)

The document sets out the Government's Planning Policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. At the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development in terms, "For plan-making" and "For decision-taking", (paragraph 11).

Paragraph 8 - Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives):

- a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
- c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

The following specific policies are considered to be particularly relevant to the proposed development:

- i. Chapter 8. Promoting healthy and safe communities- States that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places and policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements.
- ii. Chapter 12. Achieving well-designed places- Reflects upon the importance of design to the built environment and its contribution to sustainable development and making places better for people. With this in mind, the design of the substantive development has been assessed in relation to the quality and cohesion of its composite building, as well as the function and appearance of public and private spaces.

The Manchester Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2012-2027 ("the Core Strategy") was adopted by the City Council on 11th July 2012.

The Core Strategy is the key document in Manchester's Local Development Framework. It replaces significant elements of the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) as the document that sets out the long term strategic planning policies for Manchester's future development. Of relevance are:

Policy DM1 (Development Management); which states that all development should have regard to the following specific issues for which more detailed guidance may be given within a supplementary planning document. The relevant issues are the appropriate siting, layout, scale, form, massing, materials and detail. The impact; on the surrounding areas; in terms of the design, scale and appearance of the proposed development. Development should have regard to the character of the surrounding area. The effects on amenity, including privacy, light, noise, vibration, air quality and road safety and traffic generation. This could also include proposals which would be sensitive to existing environmental conditions, such as noise.

Policy SP1 (Spatial Principles); which sets out the City Council's Core Development Principles and states that development in all parts of the City should make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods of choice, amongst these include: creating well designed places that enhance or create character, making a positive contribution to the health, safety and wellbeing of residents, considering the needs of all members of the community regardless of age, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, culture, ethnicity.

Policy EN1 (Design Principles and Strategic Character Areas); states that all development in Manchester will be expected to follow the seven principles of urban design, as identified in national planning guidance and have regard to the strategic character area in which the development is located.

Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies

Large elements of the UDP have been superseded by the Core Strategy. The following saved policies are of relevance in the consideration of this application:

DC1.1 states that in determining planning applications for extensions to residential properties, the Council will have regard to:

- a. The general character of the property;
- b. The effect upon the amenity of the neighbouring occupiers;
- c. The desirability of enabling people to adapt their houses in appropriate ways to meet changing household needs;
- d. The overall appearance of the proposal in the a street scene;
- e. The effect of the loss of any on-site car parking.

DC1.2 states that extensions to residential properties will be allowed subject to compliance with other relevant policies of the Plan and the following criteria:

- a. They are not excessively large or bulky (for example resulting in structures which are not subservient to original houses or project out too far in front of original buildings);
- b. They do not create undue loss of sunlight, daylight or privacy;
- c. They are not out of character with the style of development in the area or the surrounding scene by virtue of design, use of materials or construction details.
- d. they would not result in the loss of off-street car-parking, in a situation where there is so severe an existing on-street parking problem that unacceptable additional pressures would be created.

Guide to Development in Manchester Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Guidance, Adopted April 2007.

The Guide aims to help to develop and enhance a unique and positive sense of place within Manchester and its neighbourhoods. The guidance is grouped under seven key principles recognised by CABI as being those urban design characteristics which create successful places. These are: character and context, continuity and enclosure, ease of movement, quality of the public realm, diversity, legibility, and adaptability. It advises that high quality design is a vital attribute of successful neighbourhoods.

Paragraph 2.7 states that development should help to sustain local neighbourhoods, encouraging the most appropriate form of development to enliven neighbourhoods and sustain local facilities.

Paragraph 2.14 goes on to say that it is important that new developments are of an appropriate height having regard to location, character of the area and specific site circumstances and local effects, such as microclimatic ones.

Paragraph 2.16 considers the impact of site boundaries, which can be significant and must be taken into account and incorporated into the design of new developments and conversions from an early stage. Original examples that contribute to the character of the area should be retained. Well designed new treatments such as walls, low walls and railings or hedges and boundary trees, can maintain the enclosure of the street, reinforce the building line and contribute to the quality of the environment.

ISSUES

Principle of Development

The submitted development application is for the erection of first floor balcony with associated elevational alterations. This is considered acceptable in principle as many people prefer to alter homes rather than move, to meet the changing residential needs of families. However, consideration must be given to the proposal's appearance, impact on the visual amenity of the area and impact on the neighbouring properties' residential amenity. As the property is to remain a single family dwellinghouse, it is not considered that the proposed extension would give rise to any significant additional waste or car parking pressures.

Visual /Residential Amenity

As stated above, the balcony would be sited on top of the existing front porch of the property. The applicant's property is located at the top of the cul-de-sac of Bettwood Drive and as such the view from the balcony would look onto the street. In terms of privacy and overlooking implications, although the applicant could look out of the balcony and look into the neighbouring properties either side, the same view could be obtained from the applicant's first floor front windows. The balcony does not extend forward of the existing footprint of the porch and therefore does not extend forward of the primary building line. Any privacy implications are most likely to be felt from the applicant themselves, who may be viewed by neighbours when sitting on the balcony. The proposal would not give rise to any overshadowing or loss of light implications. Since the size, positioning and footprint of the balcony is sensible, the proposal is not considered to be a detrimental and overpowering feature within the streetscene. As such, there are no significant impacts associated in terms of residential or visual amenity.

Design and Appearance

The design of the balcony has been tailored to fit the shape of the existing front porch and host property and therefore respects the relationship with the neighbouring properties to the side. The properties within the streetscene have different styles, however all are characterised as large properties, with large bay windows, natural set backs within front elevations and pitched roofs in various forms. Although not all the properties within the streetscene are identical, no.3, no. 5 and no.7 Bettwood Drive have balcony-style features at first floor level with metal railings due to part set backs at first floor level. Although access is not possible to the similar structures within the neighbouring properties, it is similar to the proposal considered. As such, the proposal compliments the existing form within the streetscene, pursuant to Policy DC1.2 of the UDP. Metal railings would be used for the balcony and a materials condition to that effect would be attached to any consent granted. A set of doors would replace the existing window allowing access onto the balcony. A condition shall be attached to any approval granted restricting the further insertion of windows or doors beyond those approved by this consent. As such, the siting and form of the proposal is considered acceptable and on balance it is considered that the design and appearance of the proposed development accords with Core Strategy Policies DM1 and EN1 and in general the design is considered acceptable.

Bin storage

Bin storage would be unaffected by this proposal.

Car parking

Car parking provision would be unaffected by this proposal.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposed development does not create any significant impact in terms of visual or residential amenity. The design, size, position, and appearance are in keeping with the character of the property and local area. The proposal complies with The National Planning Policy Framework; Core Strategy policies SP1, DM1, EN1 and Saved Policy DC1 of the Unitary Development Plan.

Human Rights Act 1998 considerations

This application needs to be considered against the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998. Under Article 6, the applicants (and those third parties, including local residents, who have made representations) have a right to a fair hearing and to this end the local planning authority must give full consideration to their comments.

Protocol 1 Article 1, and Article 8 where appropriate, confer(s) a right of respect for a person's home, other land and business assets. In taking account of all material considerations, including Council policy as set out in the Core Strategy and saved policies of the Unitary Development Plan, the Director of Planning, Building Control & Licensing has concluded that some rights conferred by these articles on the applicant(s)/objector(s)/resident(s) and other occupiers and owners of nearby land that might be affected may be interfered with but that that interference is

in accordance with the law and justified by being in the public interest and on the basis of the planning merits of the development proposal. She believes that any restriction on these rights posed by the recommendation given is proportionate to the wider benefits of and that such a decision falls within the margin of discretion afforded to the Council under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Recommendation: Approve

Article 35 Declaration

The proposal was assessed with regards to policies outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework, Unitary Development Plan Saved Policies, Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan and other material considerations. In this instance officers have worked with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner.

Condition(s) to be attached to decision for approval OR Reasons for recommendation to refuse

1) The development must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of this permission.

Reason - Required to be imposed pursuant to Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2) The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the following drawings and documents:

- Householder Application for Planning Permission for works or extension to a dwelling, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 4 April 2022.
- Application Form- Page 2 of Application Form (Revised), stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 6 April 2022.
- Drawing- Proposed- Plan and Elevation, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 4 April 2022.
- Drawing- Location Plan, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 4 April 2022.

Reason - To ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the approved plans, pursuant to policies SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy.

3) The materials to be used throughout the proposal hereby permitted shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details as set out in the Application Form specified in Condition 2 of this approval.

Reason- In order to ensure a satisfactory appearance in the interests of visual amenity in accordance with saved policies DC1 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester, SP1 and DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy and the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.

4) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015, (or any order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification), no openings, including windows and doors, shall be inserted within the elevations

of the extension, other than those shown on the approved drawings, Proposed- Plan and Elevation, stamped as received by the City Council as Local Planning Authority on 4 April 2022, unless Planning Permission is specifically granted.

Reason - In the interests of the amenities of the occupiers of the neighbouring dwellinghouse, pursuant to saved policy DC1 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester, and policy DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy.

Appendix 1 – List of consultees & neighbours notified

10 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
8 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
6 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
3 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
48 Cedric Road, Manchester, M8 4JD
50 Cedric Road, Manchester, M8 4JD
4 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
2 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
7 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
5 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
1 Bettwood Drive, Manchester, M8 4JT
46 Cedric Road, Manchester, M8 4JD
54 Cedric Road, Manchester, M8 4JD
52 Cedric Road, Manchester, M8 4JD

Appendix 2 – Planning constraints

Article 4 Direction - Removal Of PD Rights Change Of Use From Class C3 To Class C4
Aircraft Safeguarding Zone - Aircraft Safeguarding - Not Affected
Coal Authority - Development Low Risk - Name: DEVELOPMENT_LOW_RISK_AREA
Area Team Boundary - Name: NORTH1