

Planning

Growth & Development

Delegated officer report for planning application

Application no. 134495/FH/2022
Date registered valid: 26 July 2022
Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation
Address: 133 Nell Lane, Manchester, M20 2LG
Ward(s): Didsbury West Ward

Applicant: Mr David Lygate, 131 Nell Lane, West Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2LG
Agent (if any):
Case officer: David Lawless
Tel: 0161 234 4543
Email: david.lawless@manchester.gov.uk

Recommendation: Approve
Date of recommendation: 10 November 2022

Application details

Type of application: Full Householder Application

Development type: Householder

Date of site visit: 5 August 2022

Standard consultations:

Printed: 4 August 2022 Expired: 25 August 2022

Neighbour notifications

Printed: 4 August 2022 Expired: 25 August 2022

Site notice

Posted: 5 August 2022 Expired: 26 August 2022

Press advert

Published: 9 August 2022 Expired: 30 August 2022

Departure from Development Plan: No

Environmental Statement: Not required

Description of site/building/area

133 Nell Lane, which dates from circa 1850, is a two storey red brick semi-detached dwellinghouse located at the end of a private drive-way accessed off Nell Lane. The property is located within the Albert Park Conservation Area and the neighbourhood is predominantly residential in nature.

Listed building: No

Conservation area: Albert Park Conservation Area 1988

Tree Preservation Order: No

Description of development

Erection of a single storey rear extension in the location below:



Consultations & Notification Responses

Local Residents – no comments received.

West Didsbury Residents Association – no comments received.

Cadent Gas Ltd – no objections to the proposal.

Policies

The National Planning Policy Framework July 2021 (NPPF) – The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. It provides a framework within which locally-prepared plans for housing and other development can be produced. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, i.e. the Core Strategy Development Plan Document and accompanying policies, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The National Planning Policy Framework is a material consideration in planning decisions. Paragraph 11 states that plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development, which for decision-taking means:

- approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay; or
- where there are no relevant development plan policies, or the policies which are most important for determining the application are out-of-date, granting permission unless:
 - i. the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed; or
 - ii. any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in this Framework taken as a whole.

In addition to the above, Section 16 (*Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*) is of relevance:

Paragraph 197 in Section 16 states that in determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

Paragraph 199 states that when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation (and the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be). This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss or less than substantial harm to its significance.

Paragraph 200 states that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification.

Paragraph 201 states that where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:

- a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and
- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and
- c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.

Paragraph 202 states that where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

Paragraph 207 states that not all elements of a Conservation Area will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area should be treated either as substantial harm under paragraph 200 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 201, as appropriate, taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area as a whole.

Core Strategy Development Plan Document – The Core Strategy Development Plan Document 2012 -2027 ("the Core Strategy") was adopted by the City Council on 11th July 2012. It is the key document in Manchester's Local Development Framework. The Core Strategy 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.

A number of UDP policies have been saved until replaced by further development plan documents to accompany the Core Strategy. Planning applications in Manchester must be decided in accordance with the Core Strategy, saved UDP policies and other Local Development Documents. Relevant policies in the Core Strategy are detailed below:

Policy SP1, *Spatial Principles* – Development in all parts of the City should make a positive contribution to neighbourhoods of choice including creating well designed places that enhance or create character and protect and enhance the built and natural environment.

Policy EN 3, *Heritage* – Throughout the City, the Council will encourage development that complements and takes advantage of the distinct historic and heritage features of its districts and neighbourhoods, including those of the City Centre.

New developments must be designed so as to support the Council in preserving or, where possible, enhancing the historic environment, the character, setting and accessibility of areas and buildings of acknowledged importance, including scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings, registered parks and gardens, conservation areas and archaeological remains.

Proposals which enable the re-use of heritage assets will be encouraged where they are considered consistent with the significance of the heritage asset.

Policy DM1, Development Management – This policy states that all development should have regard to a number of specific issues, the most relevant of which in this instance are:

- Appropriate siting, layout, scale, form, massing, materials and detail.
- 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.
- Effects on amenity, including privacy, light, noise, vibration, air quality, odours, litter, vermin, birds, road safety and traffic generation. This could also include proposals which would be sensitive to existing environmental conditions, such as noise.
- Accessibility: buildings and neighbourhoods fully accessible to disabled people, access to new development by sustainable transport modes.
- Community safety and crime prevention.
- Adequacy of internal accommodation and external amenity space.
- Refuse storage and collection.

- Vehicular access and car parking.
- Effects relating to biodiversity and landscape.
- Green Infrastructure including open space, both public and private.
- Flood risk and drainage.

Saved UDP Policies – Policy DC18 and DC1 are considered of relevance in this instance:

Policy DC18, *Conservation Areas* – Policy DC18.1 states that the Council will give particularly careful consideration to development proposals within Conservation Areas by taking into consideration the following:

a) The Council will seek to preserve and enhance the character of its designated conservation areas by carefully considering the following issues:

- i. the relationship of new structures to neighbouring buildings and spaces;
- ii. the effect of major changes to the appearance of existing buildings;
- iii. the desirability of retaining existing features, such as boundary walls, gardens, trees, (including
- iv. street trees);
- v. the effect of signs and advertisements;
- vi. any further guidance on specific areas which has been approved by the Council.

b) The Council will not normally grant outline planning permission for development within Conservation Areas.

c) Consent to demolish a building in a conservation area will be granted only where it can be shown that it is wholly beyond repair, incapable of reasonably beneficial use, or where its removal or replacement would benefit the appearance of character of the area.

d) Where demolition is to be followed by redevelopment, demolition will be permitted only where there are approved detailed plans for that redevelopment and where the Council has been furnished with evidence that the development will be undertaken.

e) Development proposals adjacent to Conservation Areas will be granted only where it can be shown that they will not harm the appearance or character of the area. This will include the protection of views into and out of Conservation Areas.

Policy DC1, *Residential Extensions*. – Policy 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 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 street-scene;
- e) the effect of the loss of any on-site carparking.

Policy 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 the original buildings);
- b) they do not create an 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 street scene by virtue of design, use of materials or constructional 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.

Policy DC1.3 states that notwithstanding the generality of the above policies, the Council will not normally approve:

- a) rearward extensions greater than 3.65m (12 ft) in length;
- b) 2-storey extensions with a flat roof, particularly those which would be visible from the public highway;
- c) 2-storey extensions to terraced properties which occupy the full width of the house;
- d) flat roofed extensions to bungalows;
- e) extensions which conflict with the Council's guidelines on privacy distances (which are published as supplementary guidance).

Policy DC1.4 states that in considering proposals for 2-storey side extensions, the Council will have regard to the general guidance above and also to supplementary guidance to be issued. In particular, the Council will seek to ensure that:

- a) the development potential of the gap between detached and semi-detached houses is capable of being shared equally by the owners or occupiers of the two properties concerned;
- b) the actual or potential result of building the extension will not be the creation of a terracing effect, where this would be unsympathetic to the character of the street as a whole;
- c) the actual or potential result of building the extension will not be the creation of a very narrow gap between the properties, or any other unsatisfactory visual relationships between elements of the buildings involved.

As a guide, and without prejudice to the generality of this policy, the Council will normally permit 2-storey house extensions which, when built, would leave a minimum of 1.52m (5 ft) between the side wall and the common boundary, and which meet the other requirements of this policy. Proposals which cannot meet these requirements will be judged on their merits, but with weight being given to (a) and (c) above.

Issues

Principle of the Proposal – The principle of the development is considered acceptable. Notwithstanding this, consideration must be given to the potential impact upon existing levels of residential and visual amenity and upon the character of the Albert Park Conservation Area.

Design – The proposed extension would be single storey in height and topped by a flat roof. It would be constructed from reclaimed brick and would complement the existing property. Overall, the design of the extension is considered acceptable.

Impact on Albert Park Conservation Area – The requirement to preserve or enhance the Conservation Area is a key requirement within policy EN3 of the Core Strategy, saved policy DC18 of the UDP, along with the objectives of the NPPF. As such, any new development must seek to retain the character of the area through careful detailing and, where appropriate, the use of compatible materials.

The Albert Park Conservation Area, which was designated in March 1988, is situated approximately four miles south of Manchester city centre, in West Didsbury. Albert Park as a residential suburb was established in the second half of the 19th Century on what was previously

an outlying rural area. Development began along Palatine Road after it was opened in 1862, and from then until the close of the century, the area between Palatine Road, Barlow Moor Road and Lapwing Lane was developed with housing. These consisted mainly of three-storey pairs of semi-detached properties, slightly less grand than those fronting Palatine Road. Development accelerated with the opening of the Midland Railway's Withington and Albert Park railway station in 1880, which was sited directly opposite numbers 22-24 Lapwing Lane. Further expansion took place in the early 20th century, with the post-war period characterised by infill development. Though principally an area of housing, the conservation area also includes a district shopping centre on Burton Road, a smaller group of shops on Barlow Moor Road, schools, public houses and a number of churches.

The properties within the Albert Park Conservation Area generally have walls of red or orange-red brick with dressings in stone, moulded brick or a brick of a contrasting colour. Heavily moulded and strongly contrasting colours in terracotta or glazed ceramic ware are meanwhile reserved for the public buildings such as Withington Town Hall on Lapwing Lane and Cavendish Road County Primary School. The roofs of the Albert Park houses are predominantly of blue slate. Ridge tiles sometimes have decorative fins, while bargeboards and eaves boards are occasionally moulded and decorated with fretwork. Trees make a considerable contribution to the character of the area, both in the pavements and more significantly in private gardens.

This property and the adjoining 131 Nell Lane, both of which date from circa 1850s, have been extensively remodelled internally and subsequently extended to create two family dwellings. The proposed extension would be single storey in height and fit comfortably in a recessed part of the property, adjacent to the access ginnel. Given this, it is not considered that the proposal would have a detrimental impact upon the character and appearance of the Albert Park Conservation Area and as a result the development would cause less than substantial harm to the designated heritage asset.

Residential Amenity – It is not considered that the proposal will have a detrimental impact upon the existing levels of residential amenity enjoyed by the occupants of the adjoining dwelling. Given its orientation and height, it is not considered that the proposed single storey extension would lead to the overshadowing of the adjoining dwelling and the lack of windows in the side elevation would ensure that privacy is maintained.

Visual Amenity – Given the design and siting of the proposal and the fact the dwelling is not readily visible from the public realm, it is not considered that the proposed extension would have a detrimental impact upon the levels of visual amenity enjoyed within the vicinity of the site.

Trees – The proposal would not have an impact upon the existing tree cover.

Pedestrian and Highway Safety – The proposal would not have a detrimental impact upon the existing levels of pedestrian and highway safety enjoyed along Nell Lane and the surrounding highway network.

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

Officers have worked with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner to resolve any matters arising in relation to dealing with the planning application.

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 stamped as received on 26 July 2022:

- a) Location Plan
- b) Drawing nos. F001 to F002
- c) Drawing nos. F009 to F016

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 on the external elevations shall match those on the external elevations of the existing building in colour, size and texture.

Reason - In the interests of visual amenity, pursuant to Policy DM1 of the Manchester Core Strategy.

Appendix 1 – List of consultees & neighbours notified

West Didsbury Residents Association
Cadent Gas Ltd

129 Nell Lane, Manchester, M20 2LG
137 Nell Lane, Manchester, M20 2LG
139 Nell Lane, Manchester, M20 2LG
135 Nell Lane, Manchester, M20 2LG
131 Nell Lane, Manchester, M20 2LG
3 Tintern Avenue, Manchester, M20 2ND
1 Tintern Avenue, Manchester, M20 2ND
141 Nell Lane, Manchester, M20 2LG

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 Zone - All Exceeding 90M
Conservation Area - Albert Park Conservation Area 1988
Susceptible to Surf Water Flood (Less) -
Area Team Boundary - Name: SOUTH AREA