



**REGULATORY
SERVICES
COMMITTEE**

REPORT

15 December 2011

Subject Heading:	P1637.11 – garage court to rear of 16 Sheffield Drive, Harold Hill. Demolition of 31 garages and erection of 4 dwellings with associated parking (Application received 14th November 2011)
Report Author and contact details:	Helen Oakerbee, 01708 432 800 Helen.oakerbee@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	Local development Framework
Financial summary:	None

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Clean, safe and green borough	[X]
Excellence in education and learning	[]
Opportunities for all through economic, social and cultural activity	[]
Value and enhance the life of every individual	[]
High customer satisfaction and a stable council tax	[]

SUMMARY

This application relates to a Council owned garage court. This application proposes the demolition of the existing 31 garages and the erection of 4 no. 2 storey dwellings with associated parking and garden areas.

The planning issues are set out in the report below and cover the principle of development, impact on the streetscene, residential amenity and highways/parking. Staff are of the view that the proposal is acceptable and it is recommended that permission be granted subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions.

It is recommended that planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:

1) Time limit: The development to which this permission relates must be commenced not later than three years from the date of this permission.

Reason:

To comply with the requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004).

2) Accordance with plans: The development hereby permitted shall not be carried out otherwise than in complete accordance with the approved plans, particulars and specifications.

Reason:

The Local Planning Authority consider it essential that the whole of the development is carried out and that no departure whatsoever is made from the details approved, since the development would not necessarily be acceptable if partly carried out or carried out differently in any degree from the details submitted. Also, in order that the development accords with Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC61.

3) Parking standards: Before the building(s) hereby permitted is first occupied, provision shall be made for 8 x No. off-street car parking spaces for use by Plots 1, 2, 3 and 4 as shown on drawing no. 8430-70-1000 (received 26th October 2011) and thereafter this provision shall be made permanently available for use, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

To ensure that adequate car parking provision is made off street in the interests of highway safety.

4) Materials: The materials used in the construction of the development hereby approved shall be Hanson Lindum Barley Mixture Bricks for walls and Markley Eternit Modern Interlocking Tile (Old English Dark Red) for roof tiles in accordance

with the details supplied on Drawing '8430-70-Sheffield Drive' and '8430-70-1000 (received 10th November 2011), unless otherwise agreed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority)

Reason:

To ensure that the appearance of the proposed development will harmonise with the character of the surrounding area and comply with Policy DC61 of the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document.

5) Landscaping: No development shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority a scheme of hard and soft landscaping, which shall include indications of all existing trees and shrubs on the site, and details of any to be retained, together with measures for the protection in the course of development. All planting, seeding or turfing comprised within the scheme shall be carried out in the first planting season following completion of the development and any trees or plants which within a period of 5 years from completion of the development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of a similar size and species, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the local Planning Authority.

Reason:

In accordance with Section 197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and to enhance the visual amenities of the development, and that the development accords with the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC61

6) Permitted Development rights: Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No. 2) (England) Order 2008 Article 3, Schedule 2, Part 1, Classes A, B, C, D and E, no extensions, roof extensions, roof alterations or outbuildings shall take place unless permission under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 has first been sought and obtained in writing from the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

In the interests of amenity and to enable the Local Planning Authority to retain control over future development, and in order that the development accords with Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC61

7) Standard flank wall condition: Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995, no window or other opening (other than those shown on the submitted plan,) shall be formed in the flank wall(s) of the building(s) hereby permitted, unless specific permission under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 has first been sought and obtained in writing from the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

In order to ensure a satisfactory development that will not result in any loss of privacy or damage to the environment of neighbouring properties which exist or may be proposed in the future, and in order that the development accords with Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC61.

8) Cycle storage: Before the building(s) hereby permitted is first occupied, provision shall be made on Plots 1, 2, 3 and 4 for 2 x No. cycle storage spaces in accordance with the approved plans (Drawing Nr. 8430-70-1005) and thereafter this provision shall be made permanently available for use, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

In the interests of providing a wide range of facilities for non-motor car residents, in the interests of sustainability.

9) Hours of Construction: No construction works or construction related deliveries into the site shall take place other than between the hours of 08.00 to 18.00 on Monday to Friday and 08.00 to 13.00 hours on Saturdays unless agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. No construction works or construction related deliveries shall take place on Sundays, Bank or Public Holidays unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

To protect residential amenity, and in order that the development accords with the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC61.

10) Construction Methodology Statement: Before development is commenced, a scheme shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority making provision for a Construction Method Statement to control the adverse impact of the development on the amenity of the public and nearby occupiers. The Construction Method statement shall include details of:

- a) parking of vehicles of site personnel and visitors;
- b) storage of plant and materials;
- c) dust management controls;
- d) measures for minimising the impact of noise and ,if appropriate, vibration arising from construction activities;
- e) predicted noise and, if appropriate, vibration levels for construction using methodologies and at points agreed with the Local Planning Authority;
- f) scheme for monitoring noise and if appropriate, vibration levels using methodologies and at points agreed with the Local Planning Authorities;
- g) siting and design of temporary buildings;
- h) scheme for security fencing/hoardings, depicting a readily visible 24-hour contact number for queries or emergencies;
- i) details of disposal of waste arising from the construction programme, including final disposal points. The burning of waste on the site at any time is specifically precluded.

And the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved scheme and statement.

Reason:

To protect residential amenity, and in order that the development accords the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC61.

11) Visibility Splays: The proposals shall provide a 2.1 by 2.1 metre pedestrian visibility splay on either side of the proposed access, set back to the boundary of the public footway. There should be no obstruction or object higher than 0.6 metres within the visibility splay.

Reason:

In the interests of highway safety, and in order that the development accords with the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC32.

12) Highways Licence Agreement: The necessary agreement, notice or licence to enable the proposed alterations to the Public Highway shall be entered into prior to the commencement of the development.

Reason:

To ensure the interests of the travelling public and are maintained and comply with policies of the Core Strategy and Development Control Policies, namely CP10, CP17 and DC61.

13) Secured by Design: Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted, details of the measures to be incorporated into the development demonstrating how 'Secured by Design' accreditation might be achieved shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details, and shall not be occupied or used until written confirmation of compliance with the agreed details has been submitted to and approved in writing by the LPA

Reason:

In the interest of creating safer, sustainable communities, reflecting guidance set out in PPS1, Policy 4B.6 of the London Plan, and Policies CP17 'Design' and DC63 'Delivering Safer Places' of the LBH LDF

14) Noise insulation: The building(s) shall be so constructed as to provide sound insulation of 45 DnT,w + Ctr dB (minimum value) against airborne noise to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

To prevent noise nuisance to adjoining properties in accordance with the recommendations of Planning Policy Guidance Note 24 "Planning and Noise"

1994.

15) Refuse and recycling: Prior to the first occupation of the development hereby permitted, provision shall be made for the storage of refuse and recycling awaiting collection according to details which shall previously have been agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

In the interests of amenity of occupiers of the development and also the visual amenity of the development and the locality generally, and in order that the development accords with the LDF Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC61

16) Obscure glazed windows: The proposed window on 1st floor level within the north and south elevations, serving the landing as indicated on Drawing Nr. 8430-70-1001 and east and west elevations on Drawing Nr. 8430-70-1002 shall be permanently glazed with obscure glass and fixed shut with the exception of a top hung fan light and thereafter be maintained to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason:

In the interests of privacy, and in order that the development accords with the Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC61.

17) Road lighting: Before the building (s) hereby permitted is first occupied, a scheme for lighting within the development, to include the lighting along the access road, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The lighting shall be provided and operated in strict accordance with the approved scheme.

Reason:

In the interest of residential amenity.

18) Land contamination: Prior to the commencement of any works pursuant to this permission the developer shall submit for the written approval of the Local Planning Authority;

a) A Phase I (Desktop Study) Report documenting the history of this site, its surrounding area and the likelihood of contaminant/s, their type and extent incorporating a Site Conceptual Model.

b) A Phase II (Site Investigation) Report if the Phase I Report confirms the possibility of a significant risk to any sensitive receptors. This is an intrusive site investigation including factors such as chemical testing, quantitative risk assessment and a description of the sites ground conditions. An updated Site Conceptual Model should be included showing all the potential pollutant linkages and an assessment of risk to identified receptors.

c) A Phase III (Risk Management Strategy) Report if the Phase II Report confirms the presence of a significant pollutant linkage requiring remediation. The report will comprise of two parts:

Part A - Remediation Statement which will be fully implemented before it is first occupied. Any variation to the scheme shall be agreed in writing to the Local Planning Authority in advance of works being undertaken. The Remediation Scheme is to include consideration and proposals to deal with situations where, during works on site, contamination is encountered which has not previously been identified. Any further contamination shall be fully assessed and an appropriate remediation scheme submitted to the Local Planning Authority for written approval.

Part B - Following completion of the remediation works a "Validation Report" must be submitted demonstrating that the works have been carried out satisfactorily and remediation targets have been achieved.

d) If during development works any contamination should be encountered which was not previously identified and is derived from a different source and/or of a different type to those included in the contamination proposals then revised contamination proposals shall be submitted to the LPA ; and

e) If during development work, site contaminants are found in areas previously expected to be clean, then their remediation shall be carried out in line with the agreed contamination proposals.

For further guidance see the leaflet titled, "Land Contamination and the Planning Process".

Reason:

To protect those engaged in construction and occupation of the development from potential contamination. Also in order that the development accords with the LDF Development Control Policies Development Plan Document Policy DC53.

INFORMATIVES

1. Reason for Approval:

It is considered that the proposal satisfies the relevant criteria of Policies DC2, DC3, DC7, DC33, DC36, DC55, DC61 and DC63 of the LDF Development Control Policies Development Plan Document.

Note: Following a change in government legislation a fee is now required when submitting details pursuant to the discharge of conditions, in order to comply with the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendment) (England) Regulations, which came into force from 06.04.2008. A fee of £85 per request (or £25 where the related permission was for extending or altering a dwellinghouse) is needed.

2. The applicant is advised that planning approval does not constitute approval for changes to the public highway. Highway Authority approval will only be given after suitable details have been submitted, considered and agreed. Any proposals which involve building over the public highway as managed by the London Borough of Havering, will require a licence and the applicant must contact StreetCare, Traffic and Engineering on 01708 433750 to commence the Submission / Licence Approval process.
3. The developer, their representatives and contractors are advised that planning permission does not discharge the requirements under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 and the Traffic Management Act 2004. Formal notifications and approval will be needed for any highway works (including temporary works) required during the construction of the development.
4. The applicant is advised that if construction materials are proposed to be kept on the highway during construction works then they will need to apply for a license from the Council.
5. With regards to surface water drainage it is the responsibility of the 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 Ground Water. 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 0845 850 2777.
6. In aiming to satisfy Condition 13 the applicant should seek the advice of the Police Crime Prevention Design Advisor. The services of the local Police CPDA is available free of charge through Havering Development and Building Control or Romford Police Station, 19 Main Road, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BJ." It is the policy of the local planning authority to consult with the Borough CPDA in the discharging of community safety condition(s).

REPORT DETAIL

1. **Site Description**

- 1.1 The application site is a garage court located to the south of Sheffield Drive, access into the site is to the east of No. 16 and is flanked by a large grass

verge. The site is enclosed to the west and south by residential properties on Sheffield Drive and Dagnam Park Close. The sports ground on Kenilworth Avenue is located to the west of the site, where the boundary is heavily landscaped. The site is currently covered in hard standing and has 31 garages which are in poor condition.

- 1.2 The site for residential development is approximately 1484 square metres in size. Ground levels drop slightly from north to south, although the garage court itself is level.
- 1.3 The character of the surrounding area is predominantly residential and is characterised by two storey terraced dwellings.

2. Description of proposal

- 2.1 This application seeks permission to demolish the existing 31 garages on the site and erect 4 No. dwelling, comprising of 2 pairs of semi-detached dwellings, each with associated parking and garden areas.
- 2.2 Plot 1 and 2 are located to the northern edge of the site and have an east-west orientation with windows and doors on the front and rear elevations. Flank windows on the north and south elevations respectively at ground floor serve the staircase and living room. First floor flank windows serve the landing area. These dwellings measure 5.8m wide, to give a total width of 11.6m. They have an equal depth of 9.2m. The development is two storeys in height measuring 4.9m to the eaves and 8.4m to the ridge. The main entrance to the property is on the eastern elevation. At ground floor there is a kitchen/ dining room, living room and W.C. At first floor there are three bedrooms and a bathroom.
- 2.3 Plot 2 and 3 are located to the southern corner of the site and have a north-south orientation with windows and doors to the front and rear elevation. Flank windows to the east and west elevations respectively serve the kitchen/ dining area at ground floor and landing at first floor. The width of each dwelling is 6.3m, to give a total width of 12.6m. The dwellings have an equal depth of 10.2m. The development is two storeys in height measuring 4.9m to the eaves and 8.3m to the ridge. The main entrance to each property is located to the northern elevation. At ground floor, the properties provide a kitchen/dining room and W.C. At first floor there are four bedrooms and a bathroom.
- 2.5 Access to the dwellings is via the existing highway which would be retained as a shared surface road (for pedestrians and vehicles), this measures 3.2m wide. To the rear of Plots 1 and 2 would be a turning area. There would be 8 parking spaces, 2 to each plot. Spaces 1-4 for are reserved for Plot 1 and 2, these are located to the rear of their respective. 4 further spaces are reserved for Plot 3-4, these are located to the eastern edge of the site in front of their respective front gardens.

- 2.6 Amenity space for each dwelling is provided to the rear. Plot 1 (set to the north) has 62 square metres of amenity space. Plot 2 has 69 square metres of amenity space. Plots 3 and 4 have 75 and 70 square metres of amenity space respectively. All amenity areas would be screened by a 1.8m close boarded timber fence.
- 2.7 Photovoltaic panels are to be integrated into the western rear elevation of Plots 1 and 2 and to the southern elevation of Plots 3 and 4. The overall development will meet Code Level 3 for the Code for Sustainable Homes.
- 2.8 Garden access is retained to No. 12, 18 and 18 Dagnam Park Close.

3. Relevant History

- 3.1 None

4. Consultations/Representations

Neighbour notification letters were sent to 26 properties. At the time of writing this report, the 21 days for consultation has not expired and no representations had been received. At the time of the committee date, the consultation period will have expired; any representations received will be reported verbally to Members.

5. Relevant Policies

- 5.1 Policies CP17 (Design), DC2 (Housing Mix and Density), DC3 (Housing Design and Layout), DC7 (Lifetime Homes), DC33 (Car parking), DC36 (Servicing) DC61 (Urban Design), DC63 (Crime) and the Residential Design Supplementary Planning Document of the Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Documents, Policies 3.5 and 3.8 of the London Plan (2011), PPS1 (Delivering Sustainable Development) and PPS3 (Housing) are relevant.

6. Staff Comments

- 6.1 This proposal is put before the Committee as the site comprises land owned by the Council. The main issues to be considered by Members in this case are the principle of development, the site layout and amenity space, design/streetscene issues, amenity implications and parking and highway issues.
- 6.2 Principle of development
 - 6.2.1 The site lies outside the Metropolitan Green Belt, Employment Areas, Commercial Areas, Romford Town Centre and District and Local Centres. The principle of residential development is considered acceptable in land use terms and the provision of additional housing is consistent with PPS3 as the application site is within an established urban area.

6.2.2 Policy 3.8 of the London Plan states that DPD policies should offer a range of housing choices, in terms of the mix of housing sizes and types, taking account of the housing requirements of different groups. Policy 3.5 states that Local Development Frameworks should incorporate minimum space standards. A mixture of 3 and 4 bedroom homes are proposed. The Mayor has set these space standards at 87 square metres for a 3 bed, 4 person two storey dwelling; 96 square metres for a 3 bed, 5 person dwelling; 100 square metres for a 4 bed, 5 person dwelling and; 201 square metres for a 4 bed, 6 person dwelling. The 3 bedroom dwellings have an internal floor space of 106 square metres. The 4 bedroom dwellings have an internal floor space of 128; both of which are acceptable.

6.2.3 Policy CP1 indicates that outside town centres and the Green Belt, priority will be made on all non-specifically designated land for housing. The proposal is for redevelopment of a derelict site within an existing residential area. The proposal is therefore acceptable in principle and in accordance with Policy CP1.

6.3 Site Layout/ Amenity Space

6.3.1 The Council's Residential Design SPD in respect of amenity space recommends that every home should have access to suitable private and/or communal amenity space in the form of private gardens, communal gardens, courtyards, patios, balconies or roof terraces. In designing high quality amenity space, consideration should be given to privacy, outlook, sunlight, trees and planting, materials (including paving), lighting and boundary treatment. All dwellings should have access to amenity space that is not overlooked from the public realm and this space should provide adequate space for day to day uses.

6.3.2 The amenity space to both dwellings is provided towards the rear in single rectangular blocks, enclosed by a 1.8m close boarded. The amenity areas would not be visible from any public view points they would measure 62 square metres for Plot 1, 69 square metres for Plot 2, 75 square metres for Plot 3 and 70 square metres for Plot 3. Access to the garden area is through the dwelling and side entrance gates.

6.3.3 Amenity space in the local area is similarly arranged to the rear of properties and varies in size. Gardens to properties in Sheffield Drive to the north measure between 100 and 163 square metres. Properties to the west and south in Dagnam Park Close have gardens measuring between 71 to over 200 square metres. The proposed gardens here are smaller than the average garden in the locality, however, there are no prescribed space standards for gardens and Staff are of the opinion that the proposed garden areas would be large enough to be practical for every day use and with the provision of fencing, would be screened from general public views and access. It is therefore considered that the proposed garden areas would acceptably integrate into the locality and comply with the requirements of the Residential Design SPD.

6.3.4 The residential density range for this site is 30-50 dwellings per hectare. The proposal would result in a density of approximately 35 dph, this is within the stated ranges and Staff consider the proposals to be of an appropriate density for the locality.

6.4 Impact on Local Character and Streetscene.

6.4.1 Policy DC61 of the LDF Development Plan Document seeks to ensure that new developments are satisfactorily located and are of a high standard of design and layout. Furthermore, the appearance of new developments should be compatible with the character of the surrounding area, and should not prejudice the environment of the occupiers and adjacent properties. Policy DC61 of the DPD states that planning permission will only be granted for development which maintains, enhances or improves the character and appearance of the local area.

6.4.2 The surrounding area has no prevailing architectural style. Properties in Sheffield Drive and Dagnam Park Close are arranged in terraces. End of terrace properties are typically gabled, although there are some hipped roofs in the locality. Materials in the locality include facing brick and render. The proposed dwellings are set back from over 60m Sheffield Drive down an access track and would be screened by existing development in Sheffield Drive; and the dense boundary trees that define the boundary of the sports club to the east, as such the dwelling would not be visible as part of the streetscene.

6.4.3 In terms of design, the properties have a traditional design with covered entrances. Plots 1-2 and 3-4 are of an identical appearance although the canopied entrances to Plots 1-2 are set to the edges of the building, where as on Plot 3-4 they are set centrally. They would be finished in facing brick with a tiled roof and UPVC windows. Staff consider that the design would be acceptable for the locality. Details of materials have been submitted with the application which Staff consider to be acceptable. These are enforced by way of condition.

6.4.4 The garage court is fairly level although to the north Sheffield Drive is set at approximately 1m higher. The proposed dwellings would be 0.6m lower (at ridge level) than properties in Sheffield Drive, although they would be 1.8m taller than properties to Dagnam Park Close in the south and west. Staff consider that the spacing between dwellings surrounding the site not to be of a visually intrusive or overbearing appearance, where the roofs have hipped ends and taking into account existing boundary screening. The properties would be screened by surrounding development to the north, and east where there is dense boundary screening. To the west and south the properties may be partially visible however, given their distance from surrounding development they are not considered to be harmful in the locality.

6.4.5 When viewed from the Sports ground to the existing trees and vegetation would screen the majority of the dwellings. In winter months it is likely that

the dwellings would be partially visible, although Staff raise no objection to this where other surrounding dwellings are visible across the boundary.

6.4.6 The existing site is covered in hard standing. The development of housing on the site with landscaping would improve the quality of the existing garage court and would therefore be an enhancement to the character and appearance of the surrounding area in general.

6.4.7 It is considered that the development of a pair of 2 pairs of semi-detached dwellings in this location would have an acceptable impact on the character and appearance of the locality. In light of sufficient separation distances between the proposed dwellings and neighbouring properties, Staff are of the opinion that the proposals would not appear as a cramped or overbearing form of development within the surrounding rear garden environment and overall would have an acceptable design and appearance, therefore compliant with the aims and objectives of Policy DC61 of the Local Development Framework.

6.5 Impact on Amenity

6.5.1 Policy DC61 considers that new developments should not materially reduce the degree of privacy enjoyed by the occupants of adjoining properties or have an unreasonably adverse effect on sunlight and daylight to adjoining properties.

6.5.2 The northern corner of the front elevation to Plot 1 is set 22.4m south from the No. 16 Sheffield Drive. The flank of Plot 1 is set 25m south from No. 14 Sheffield Drive. The rear corner of Plot 2 is set 19.4m east of 19 Dagnam Park Close and 14m from the northern corner of No. 18 Dagnam Park Close.

6.5.3 The flank of Plot 3 is located 22.4m east of No. 18 Dagnam Park Close. The rear corner is set 20m north of No. 12 Dagnam Park Close and approximately 33m from No. 11 Dagnam Park Close.

6.5.4 Plots 3-4 are located 5.8m south of Plots 1-2 and are divided by the access road which serves the parking spaces to 1-2 and garden access to surrounding properties. Guidance with the adopted Residential Design SPD does not prescribe back to back distances, given the garden separation depths between the dwellings and surrounding properties, it is not considered that there would be any overbearing impact.

6.5.5 The development would have single ground floor flank windows which serve the dining room and staircase; these would not result in adverse overlooking of adjacent occupiers given the surrounding boundary enclosures and distances between properties. At first floor the landing windows to each property are not considered to result in a loss of amenity as they can be conditioned so that they are obscure glazed and non opening.

- 6.5.5 Dwellings in Sheffield Drive are arranged with a north-south orientation. Plots 1-2 are arranged with an east-west orientation. This would result in no direct overlooking. Plots 3-4 are arranged with a north-south orientation and are located nearest No's 18 Dagnam Park Close which has an east-west orientation. This relationship is not considered to result in overlooking. The front windows to all plots would overlook the access road which is acceptable. The rear windows of each plot would share an aspect onto adjacent gardens, however, given the separation distances given above it is not considered that there would be any adverse overlooking or loss of privacy; The proposed dwellings are arranged with a east-west orientation. This would result in no direct overlooking between the properties and surrounding development.
- 6.5.6 In terms of additional noise and disturbance, it is not considered that the addition of 4 x family dwellings would give rise to any undue levels of noise and disturbance to the surrounding neighbouring properties within what is a predominantly residential area.
- 6.5.7 There would be 8 parking spaces provided, 2 for each dwelling. These are located in two groups of 4. Parking for Plots 1-2 is located to the northern edge of the site with a turning area provided in front. Parking to Plots 3-4 is located to the eastern boundary by the access road. The parking spaces to the northern boundary would be screened by a 1.8m high timber fence. It is acknowledged that the site is currently used for informal parking and Staff are of the opinion that the parking is sufficiently removed from existing dwellings and that no noise or light pollution would occur as a result of these 4 car parking spaces on the site given the existing 31 spaces the site can currently accommodate. The 4 spaces to the eastern boundary would be screened by the existing boundary trees and strips of soft landscaping, this is considered acceptable.
- 6.5.8 Staff consider the proposal to be acceptable in its current form. Given the size of the proposed 2-storey development in relation to the resultant limited plot space, any additions, extensions or alterations to the dwelling may result in harm to the character of the surrounding area and neighbouring amenity. In light of this, Staff are of the opinion that all Permitted Development Rights for the proposed development should be removed in order to safeguard the appearance of the street scene and amenities of neighbouring occupiers.
- 6.5.9 It is considered that the layout, siting and design of the proposed development would be acceptable with no material harmful impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties. The development is therefore considered to comply with the aims and objectives of Policies CP17 and DC61 of the LDF Development Control Policies DPD in respect of its impact on neighbouring amenity.
- 6.6 Highway/Parking/Access

- 6.6.1 Policy DC33 in respect of car parking refers to the density matrix in Policy DC2. The site has a PTAL rating of 1-2 and therefore requires 2 - 1.5 parking spaces per unit for a development of this type nature. 2 parking spaces are provided per unit which is acceptable.
- 6.6.2 According to information provided by the applicant, all 31 garages are in a poor condition and all are currently vacant. The loss of these garages in favour of the proposal to provide new family accommodation is therefore considered acceptable and would not result in any highway safety or parking issues.
- 6.6.3 The access road would have a shared surface for vehicles and pedestrians. The width of the access road measures 3.2m and this is not proposed to change. The access arrangements raise no objections from Staff.
- 6.6.4 The development provides storage for 2 x no. cycle spaces to each dwelling which would comply with the Council's standards as set out in Annex 6 which requires a provision of 2 spaces per dwelling with 3 or more bedrooms.
- 6.6.5 In light of the above, the proposal is considered to satisfy the requirements of Policy DC2 and DC33 and would not result in any highway or parking issues.

6.7 Other issues

- 6.7.1 The plans submitted show an area for refuse storage in the access road and householders would need to carry their black sacks to this refuse point on collection days. This has been considered acceptably by StreetCare and raises no objection. Specific details as to the refuse storage are attached via condition.

7. Conclusion:

- 7.1.1 Overall, Staff are of the opinion that the proposals to provide 4 dwellings would be of an acceptable appearance, they would be largely screened by existing development in Sheffield Drive. It is also considered that the proposal presents an acceptable degree of spacing between the buildings, proposed and existing and is not considered to appear as unacceptably dominant or visually intrusive. It is considered that the proposal would not have any detrimental impact on neighbouring properties. There are no highways issues raised with regard to the provision of parking for the dwelling. The provision of amenity space is also acceptable and approval is recommended accordingly.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks: None

Legal implications and risks:

This application is considered on its own merits and independently from the Council's interest as applicant and owner of the site.

Human Resources implications and risks: None.

Equalities implications and risks:

The proposed dwellings would be constructed to meet the Lifetime homes Standard which means that they would be easily adaptable in the future to meet the changing needs of occupiers.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Application forms and plans received 14/11/2011.

1. The planning application as submitted or subsequently revised including all forms and plans.
2. The case sheet and examination sheet.
3. Ordnance survey extract showing site and surroundings.
4. Standard Planning Conditions and Standard Green Belt reason for refusal.
5. Relevant details of Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Article 4 Directions.
6. Copy of all consultations/representations received and correspondence, including other Council Directorates and Statutory Consultees.
7. The relevant planning history.