



ANCILLARY GRANNY ANNEXE

Planning, Design and Access Statement

2 Northaw Place
Coopers Lane
Northaw
Potters Bar
EN6 4NQ

Date: August 2023

Document Ref: JD/1437/JM



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Introduction

This planning statement has been produced to support a planning application seeking the erection of a timber prefabricated single storey granny annexe for ancillary residential use associated with the dwelling.

The proposed annexe will be for the applicant's parents, who, due to advancing age and declining health, require the support and care of their family.

The erection of an annexe will provide the balance of independence while still having the care of the family on hand. A personal statement has been provided to support the application which provides the background to the need.

Other supporting documents submitted as part of this application will include:

- Location Plan
- Proposed Elevations
- Proposed Floor Plan
- Proposed Block Plan
- Proposed Site Plan
- Existing Site Plan
- Personal Statement

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Proposal

This application seeks to erect a single storey timber granny annexe within the curtilage of an established C3 dwelling.

The use of the annexe will be ancillary to the main dwelling with strong functional links between them.

It is intended that the occupants will be regularly preparing and eating meals in the main dwelling, watching television/relaxing, socialising with the family, and using existing household facilities.

To confirm, there will be **no** separate:

- Address
- Post box
- Utility metres
- Services, such as internet, phone line and television
- Parking
- Garden area or curtilage
- Access

To reiterate, this proposal is for an ancillary granny annexe that will be located within an existing residential curtilage and will be heavily dependent on the host dwelling.

The proposal does **not** represent a separate dwelling and could **not** operate as such given the undesirable site constraints and reliance on the host dwelling.

Site Context

Application Site

The application site is located on the western side of Coopers Lane in the north of Potters Bar. The dwelling itself is a large, detached dwelling and its occupation by the applicant is entirely lawful – it is a dwelling house which is occupied by the applicants and is in C3 use.

The curtilage is well defined with the use of domestic fencing and mature vegetation, which provides an effective screen and ensures that any potential impact to neighbouring amenity and the street scene is negligible.

The surrounding area is predominantly residential; it is therefore not out of character to find ancillary buildings located in gardens.

Site Designations

According to the adopted Welwyn Hatfield policy map, the site is located within the Metropolitan Green Belt, and the site is within proximity of the grounds of a Grade II* Listed Building.



The Environment Agency's Flood Map for the site indicates that the site is within Flood Zone 1, low risk from flooding.

Planning Policy

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that decisions must be made in accordance with relevant Development Plan Documents unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The relevant policies against which to assess this proposal are contained within the adopted Welwyn Hatfield District Plan (2005), the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and any relevant Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD's).

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Welwyn Hatfield District Plan (2005)

- Policy SD1 – Sustainable Development
- Policy D1 – Quality of Design
- Policy RA1 – Development in the Green Belt
- Policy RA2 – Development in Settlements within the Green Belt
- Policy RA3 – Extensions to Dwellings in the Green Belt

SPD's

- Welwyn Hatfield Supplementary Design Guidance (2005)

NPPF

- Paragraph 8 – Dimensions to sustainable development
- Paragraph 11 – Presumption in favour of sustainable development
- Paragraph 62 – Meeting housing needs for older people
- Paragraph 92 – A safe, secure, and enjoyable garden
- Paragraph 93 – Meeting the social and recreational needs of the community
- Paragraph 119 – Improving the living conditions of the applicant
- Paragraph 148 – Very special circumstances for development in the Green Belt

Policy Analysis

Principle of Development

This proposal seeks to erect a granny annexe to provide ancillary accommodation for the applicant's parents, who, require increased care and support from their family (please see submitted Personal Statement).

The construction of the granny annexe would allow the family to have peace of mind knowing that they are close by and can provide the support now and into the future.

Need – As expressed at the start of this report, the annexe is required to provide the necessary care and support for the applicant's parents.

The family will be on hand to take care of day-to-day needs, whether that be cooking together, socialising, laundry, errands to the shops and appointments and just being on hand to provide support rather than relying on state care.

Multigenerational living is being supported and championed by central government, it releases the stress on state funded care and provides a form of sustainable development that must be supported at local level.

Relationship with dwelling – Whilst the annexe will not be physically attached, the annexe would have a clear dependency on the main dwelling for basic services. In addition to the clear use connections between the house and the annexe and the layout of the annexe within the site, clearly demonstrates that independent use would be difficult and undesirable.

To confirm, there will be **no** separate:

- Access
- Address
- Utility metres
- Garden
- Curtilage
- Septic tank
- Post box

The above points were a strong consideration in the landmark case *Uttlesford v SoS (Environment & White)*.

The Inspector acknowledged that the annexe contained all the facilities for day-to-day domestic existence and was capable of being used as a separate dwelling house.

However, the inspector also stated that this did not mean that it had been so used; Factors of significance were the lack of separate utility meters, postal address, and telephone line. He also mentioned the lack of any separate curtilage or access arrangements.

Future occupancy – The applicant would be happy to agree to an appropriate condition restricting the use of the annexe to only ancillary.

Whilst the National Planning Practice Guidance was published on 6 March 2014 and Circular 11/95 was cancelled, Appendix A of the Circular is currently retained. Therefore, such a condition continues to be promoted by the Government.

The circular states:

“It is possible that a 'granny annexe' which provides independent living accommodation, could subsequently be let, or sold off separately from the main dwelling. Where there are sound planning reasons why the creation of an additional dwelling would be unacceptable it may be appropriate, to impose a planning condition to the effect that the building permitted shall be used solely as accommodation ancillary to the main dwelling house.”

The applicant is happy to accept the below condition, taken from model condition 47 from Circular 11/95:

“The proposed building hereby permitted shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling.”

If the LPA consider the use of a condition not to be a strong mechanism to control the use, the applicant would be happy to agree to a Section 106 to ensure the annexe is never separated off.

Given the above, we believe the principle of an ancillary annexe, subject to further assessment on; amenity, design, and visual impact, should be considered acceptable.

Layout and Siting

Local planning policy seeks to ensure that any new development is satisfactorily located and provides a high standard of design being compatible with the character of the surrounding area.

The proposed annexe will be sited just south of the main dwelling. Careful consideration has been given to the positioning of the annexe to ensure that the development would not negatively impact on any of the surrounding land uses, whilst maintaining its ancillary relationship with the host dwelling.

We believe that the proposal would have no greater impact upon the surrounding area than any permitted residential paraphernalia. Overall, the annexe would assimilate within the garden and wider context and would visually corollate with the surrounding pattern of built development.

Scale and Amount

The size of the annexe has been carefully considered to provide comfortable accommodation whilst ensuring the impact on the surroundings and landscape remains minimal. The size has been considered to reflect the relationship of a traditional ancillary outbuilding, the single storey design will provide a clear subordinate appearance to the host dwelling and surrounding properties in terms of mass and scale.

Due to the size of the host plot, the proposal does not out of place when viewed together.

We believe that the proposal would have no greater impact on the surrounding area than an outbuilding which would be permitted under Class E of the GPDO. It is a strong material consideration that if the height was reduced the applicant could build the physical structure itself under Class E Permitted Development Rights.

Therefore, we believe the proposed annexe in its current form and size is acceptable, and in accordance with local planning policies.

Annexe Access

The only access into the annexe will be through the existing arrangement, no independent access will be provided. There would be no separate highway access or need to make any alterations to the existing access point.

Appearance

A great deal of consideration has been given to the design and materials to ensure that the granny annexe looks subordinate to the main dwelling and reflects the local character and the host dwelling.

The following materials will be used for the construction of the proposed annexe:

- **Foundations** – Screw Pile Foundation System
- **Roof Construction** – Calderdale Dark Grey pitched roof
- **Fenestration** – Foiled windows and doors
- **External Cladding** – Marley Cedral Lap Weatherboard Cladding (Finished in Grey Green)

We consider these materials reflect the character of the area and integrates within the garden context.

Green Belt

The Welwyn Hatfield District Plan (2005) Policy RA3 states that:

“Extensions to Dwellings in the Green Belt Permission for extensions to existing dwellings within the Green Belt will be allowed only where all the following criteria are met:

- (i) The proposal would not individually or when considered with existing or approved extensions to the original dwelling, result in a disproportionate increase in the size of the dwelling.
- (ii) It would not have an adverse visual impact (in terms of its prominence, size, bulk, and design) on the character, appearance, and pattern of development of the surrounding countryside.

This policy also applies to those outbuildings for which planning permission is required.”

The proposed annexe is intended to encompass a net developed area of 89 sqm, situated within an approximately 1-hectare site. Compared to the main dwelling's overall footprint of 244 sqm, this represents a notably small expansion. As such, it would not yield a disproportionate increase in the residential land use, nor would it exert any adverse impact on the character or aesthetic of the encompassing countryside.

Paragraph 148 of the NPPF outlines that ‘very special circumstances will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations. The personal need and circumstances for this annexe demonstrate that it is a necessary development and, based on its justification, cannot be deemed inappropriate development within the Green Belt.

Heritage

As previously mentioned within the Site Designations, the application site is in proximity of the grounds of a Grade II* Listed Building, Northaw Place. The listing description is as follows:

GV II*

House. Formerly residential school. Circa 1690. Said to have been built for Captain Moncey R.N. Altered early C19, c.1860 and late C19. Earliest part on E has 5-window N front, refaced c.1860 in cement. Banded ground floor. Square porch with detached Roman Doric columns their lower halves bossed. Balustrading. Slightly projecting centre window bay, the 1st floor window with pediment. Chamfered quoins. Sash windows with shallow-moulded surrounds. Extension on right with 3 moulded relieving arches and similar detailing. Large early and late C19 W additions. At right angles on W end is stable block of late C17 origin: C19/20 red brick with slate hipped roof. The ridge has large clock tower: square base with clock faces; dentilled open pediments; octagonal turret with columns and modillioned cornice; ogee lead hood; clock mechanism intact. Garden elevation to early house is red brick c1700. 1st floor band. Early C19 flush sash windows. Square porch has fluted Greek Doric columns and pilaster responds. C19 stucco eaves cornice. W extensions in yellow stock brick with gauged brick lintels.

Interior has very good c1700 staircase hall. Canvas wall and ceiling paintings in style of Verrio, depicting scenes from classical mythology. Barley twist balustrading. Hall and ground floor rooms with contemporary fielded panelling, the NE room and vestibule with frames for paintings, now removed, set over bolection-moulded fireplaces. NE 1st floor room with Chinese style paintings on rails and mutins of panelling, now painted over. (Pevsner (1977)).

Listing NGR: TL2700002465

Furthermore, the garden walls surrounding Northaw Place are Grade II Listed, and the listing description is as follows:

12/230 Garden walls at Northaw Place -

GV II

Garden walls on S side of Northaw Place. Late C17. Red brick. 3 sides of square, joining S front of house at E end. Centre S side has pair of double cast iron gates, probably C19, set between C19 square gate piers with stone cornices. Included for group value.

Listing NGR: TL2706302410

The site is located approximately 100m east of Northaw Place and the site itself is bound by mature vegetation. Notwithstanding the considerable distance from the heritage asset, thoughtful planning and consideration of the proposed granny annexe's size, design, materials, and location have been undertaken with utmost care to ensure the preservation and safeguarding Northaw Place and the garden walls.

The size of the annexe has been kept in proportion and in harmony with the surroundings, ensuring it does not compete or detract from the visual appeal of the heritage structure. The design is sympathetic and complementary, taking inspiration from the host dwelling, whilst clearly being designed as an appropriate building within a garden setting, thereby blending seamlessly into the landscape. High-quality, sustainable materials have been selected, which not only enhance the durability and longevity of the annexe but also uphold the visual character of the area.

Lastly, the chosen location of the annexe has been strategically determined to ensure it does not compete with the host dwelling. Through this comprehensive approach, the proposed granny annexe seeks to coexist harmoniously within its surroundings while offering a modern and functional living space for the occupants.

Based on the above, it can be considered that the proposed annexe will bring no harm to Northaw Place and its surrounding garden walls.

Sustainability

The National Planning Policy Framework (“Framework”) (Section 2 para 7) states that “the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development”.

This is done through three overarching objectives, economic, social, and environmental. This planning statement has clearly shown how the proposals are compliant with the social objective of sustainability. The environmental and economic objectives will be discussed further in this section.

At the heart of the iHUS annexe is sustainability, we believe in ‘doing our bit.’ By making conscious choices on materials, processes, and logistics we can help make an impact towards a better future.

Offsite Manufacturing

Most of the annexe is pre-constructed in the iHUS factory, this includes the floor cassettes, wall panels and roof panels or trusses, these kits are then transported from the central factory out to site.

Offsite construction offers many advantages over traditional on-site building methods. This includes:

- **Reduced environmental impact** – Construction waste and emissions can be halved, by virtue of production efficiencies and increased recycling.
- **Reduced waste** – Factory production brings about design consistencies to minimise the waste of components. WRAP believes this to be as much as 70-90% waste savings.
- **Environmentally friendly** – The reduced time on actual building sites provides a less intrusive environment for surrounding businesses, households, and road networks.
- **Safety** – The factory is a far more predictable setting than the physical construction site, which eliminates the variables of weather and visibility. Having the conditions be the same every time makes errors much less likely. Most of onsite construction’s most dangerous hazards: like fall from height and equipment accidents, are not an issue in the factory.
- **Less greenhouse gas** – As well as the solid waste that goes to landfill, the machinery used in construction can’t avoid pumping various pollutants into the atmosphere. However, if air pollution can’t be avoided, it can at least be minimised. Reducing works traffic reduces noxious nitrates, which limits local air pollution but greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide are a more global problem that are already causing significant climate change around the world.

Materials

The materials used to build the annexe are sustainably sourced or are used due to their environmentally friendly qualities, such as:

- **Foundations** – The foundations used are a screw pile system. This creates almost zero mess, removing the need for skips or other transport requirements for waste spoil a traditional foundation system would produce. Screw Piles are helping drive down carbon emissions against conventional methods. Concrete is now the second most consumed substance on Earth after water. On average, each year 3 tonnes of concrete are consumed for every person on the planet, with 10% of all global carbon emissions because of cement production.

- **Timber Frame** – 95% of the timber used in the construction of the annexe is FSC grade certificate wood. FSC controlled wood is defined as: virgin wood or wood fibre which has been verified as having a low probability of including wood from any of the following categories:
 1. Illegally harvested wood.
 2. Wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights.
 3. Wood harvested in forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities.
 4. Wood harvested in forests being converted from natural and semi natural forest to plantations or non- forest use.
 5. Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

Forest management certification is awarded to forest managers or owners whose management practices meet the requirements of the FSC Principles and Criteria and the applicable FSC national forest stewardship standard.

- **OSB** – OSB3 is an engineered, load-bearing wood-based panel product used to create the wall panels, free of knots and voids, and suitable for structural use in humid situations.

FSC certified OSB3 is a safe and sound choice for the construction industry and is used extensively in timber frame housing and for flooring, wall sheathing, roofing. OSB3 is sourced from locally managed forests that are independently certified to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) criteria. Logs used to manufacture OSB3 are a natural bi-product of the thinning process that takes place in managed woodlands to help it thrive. Only the smaller trees are selected to make OSB3, leaving the larger, stronger trees to grow on for years and provide suitable raw material for the saw milling industry.

- **Electric Heating and Water** – Electric heating is environmentally friendly because it does not create emissions and leaves the inside and surrounding outdoor air clear. Electric heating does not produce dangerous carbon monoxide and leaves no build-up of debris like other heating sources. Government figures released in 2018 show that electric heating is better for the environment than gas. This revelation is due to investments in renewable energy, plus a reduced reliance on coal-fired power stations. Another big influence is a re-think on how carbon emissions for new houses are measured.
- **Lighting** – All LED used throughout the annexe. A+ rated and ninety percent energy saving vs Halogen with 25,000 Hr life.

Economic

This objective seeks to 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.

The proposal provides an affordable unit of ancillary accommodation for the applicant’s family member, and in many cases releases a family home into the housing stock.

Multigenerational living also has great financial savings because households share common resources, such as food, childcare, eldercare, heat, electricity, transportation, and mortgage/rent, thereby reducing the cost of living relative to individual or single-family living arrangement.

The family will care for each other this will reduce the use of state funded social health services therefore reducing the burden on such provisions.

iHUS also employ over 50 staff members over both operations and construction sectors of the business, the coupled with using local builders' merchants and suppliers, each annexe that is constructed contributes to economy and bolsters the construction industry.

The proposal also uses brownfield land and in most case gardens that are underutilised, therefore, this makes efficient use of land within residential areas.



Material Considerations

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that the determination of planning applications must be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

There are several material considerations that support this proposal which we consider should carry weight in the decision-making process.

Appeal Precedents

Whilst we appreciate applications should be judged on their individual merits, the following appeals are for a very similar proposal, all were allowed.

- **Appeal ref: APP/Q5300/D/16/3147827** – The appeal was against the London Borough of Enfield for the refusal of a granny annexe application, the appeal was allowed.

The LPA concluded that the proposal would result in the creation of a separate dwelling. However, the Inspector found this conclusion to be incorrect, even though the annexe contained all the facilities to allow for independent occupation, this does not mean this would be the case.

The Inspector attributed weight to the model condition suggested above to restrict the use to only ancillary. Please see paragraphs 5,6 and 7 of the attached appeal decision.

- **Appeal ref: APP/B3438/A/12/2188171** was decided against Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, the Inspector states:

“Whilst I accept that the proposed accommodation would contain all the facilities required for it to be used as an independent unit, its overall size would be small and the level of facilities it would provide would be basic, which is what would be expected for accommodation that is ancillary to the main dwelling.

I recognise that the grant of planning permission could result in pressure for the building to be used as a separate dwelling at some point in the future. For the reasons set out above I consider that it is very unlikely to be occupied independently of the main dwelling.

Moreover Circular 11/95 provides a model condition which could be attached to this permission to ensure that the occupation of this unit remains ancillary. The fact that such a condition is included in national guidance is an indication that it is capable of being enforced and I see no reason why the Council should not be able to investigate and take any action on any breach of the condition.”

Whilst each application should be judged on its own merits, consistency in decision making is paramount to allow for confidence in the planning system this has often been found the case at High Court and with appeal Inspectors.

Personal Need

There is a strong personal need for the annexe which is highlighted in the supporting documents. Lord Scarman in *Westminster City Council v Great Portland Estates plc* [1985] JPL108; AC661 commented that:

"Personal circumstances of the occupier [and] personal hardship...are not to be ignored in the administration of planning control. It would be inhuman pedantry to exclude from the control of our environment the human factor."

Personal circumstances, or 'the human factor,' are always present in the background to the consideration of the character of land use but may sometimes be given direct effect in development control as an exceptional or special circumstance (*Great Portland Estates plc v Westminster City Council* [1985] A.C. 661.)

It is considered the personal circumstances of the applicant's parents is a strong material consideration which should be given due weight. We respectfully urge the council to take into consideration the need for the annexe, which has been highlighted within the personal statement.

The personal circumstances and need have been clearly documented in the supporting personal statement. These are significant considerations which meet the 'relevant protected characteristics' under Section 149 of the Public Sector Equality Duty contained in the Equality Act 2010 to which should be considered.

The proposed development would provide for the needs of the applicant's parents (which include care, communication, decision making, ongoing medical appointments, mobility, transport, practical and social activities, and emergency contact) in a way which is not possible in their current accommodation.

If refused, the decision would have a serious negative impact on their day to day lives and their health.

Conclusion

The principle of the proposal can be considered acceptable, with the use of the annexe secured by a model condition that can be readily enforced.

This statement has demonstrated the proposals comply with both national and local planning policies in terms of amenity, design, and visual impact.

This proposal seeks to replace an existing outbuilding and erect an ancillary granny annexe and provide a much-needed granny annexe that will help a family stay together and provide the required care for each other. Not only does this help relieve the stress on our public health care system, but it also provides a very sustainable form of development that should be championed.

We therefore respectfully request that this application is granted without delay.



Appendix

Appendix A – Appeal Ref: APP/Q5300/D/16/3147827



Appeal Decision

Site visit made on 13 July 2016

by Gary Deane BSc (Hons) DipTP MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Decision date: 16 August 2016

Appeal Ref: APP/Q5300/D/16/3147827
82 Perry Mead, Enfield EN2 8BS

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.
 - The appeal is made by Mr Leslie Ernest and Ella Blinko against the decision of the Council of the London Borough of Enfield.
 - The application Ref 16/00020/HOU, dated 5 January 2016, was refused by notice dated 1 March 2016.
 - The development proposed is the erection of an ancillary granny annexe.
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Application for costs

1. An application for costs was made by the appellants against the Council. This application is the subject of a separate decision.

Decision

2. The appeal is allowed and planning permission is granted for the erection of an ancillary granny annexe at 82 Perry Mead, Enfield EN2 8BS in accordance with the terms of the application Ref 16/00020/HOU, dated 5 January 2016, subject to the conditions set out in the schedule to this decision.

Main issues

3. The main issues are firstly, whether the proposal would constitute a separate unit of residential accommodation, rather than an ancillary use; and secondly, the effect of the proposal on the character and appearance of the local area.

Reasons

Whether a separate unit of residential accommodation

4. Although the Council considers that the proposal is tantamount to a new independent unit of residential accommodation that is not what has been applied for. The application forms lodged with the Council make clear that planning permission is sought for the erection of an ancillary granny annexe. The Council validated the application on that basis.
 5. The Council supports its opinion with reference to the intended occupier, which would be the appellant's daughter, the self-contained nature of the accommodation to be provided, the limited connection to the main house, and the ability to provide separate access and to subdivide the plot that is to be shared with No 82. With a bedroom, lounge, kitchen, bathroom and store, the
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new building would have adequate facilities and sufficient space within and around it potentially for independent use by a separate household. Therefore, the Council's concern is not unfounded.

6. However, the evidence is not conclusive that the proposal would actually be used in this way. The appellants contend and have repeatedly stated in writing that it would not. The new building would provide for the needs of the appellant's daughter, enabling her to be on hand to care for her elderly parents that reside within the main dwelling. From my inspection of the plans, the use of the site, in its entirety, would remain for single-family occupation. The proposal would not have a separate address nor would it have separate utility provision or garden. All of these matters consistently point towards the ancillary nature of the proposal.
7. The use of the new building as an annexe could also be controlled by a condition if planning permission were to be granted. The model condition for granny annexes put forward in national guidance is designed to prevent the creation of an additional dwelling. This condition is capable of being enforced in this instance because there is no obvious reason why the Council should not be able to investigate and take any action with regard to any alleged breach of the condition.
8. A request to use the new building independently could be made in the future. However, its location within the garden of No 82, away from the road, with only pedestrian access would indicate that the building would not be suitable for use as a separate dwelling. If such a proposal did come to pass, it could be resisted on the grounds that the building would be unsuitable for use as a separate residential unit with support from adopted planning policies.
9. With a suitably worded condition in place to restrict the use of the new building to an ancillary annexe, I conclude on the first main issue that the proposal does not constitute a separate unit of residential accommodation and that it would be ancillary to No 82. Therefore, I find no conflict with Policy DMD 12 of the Enfield's Development Management Document (DMD). This policy notes that proposals for outbuildings will only be permitted if its criteria are met, which include a requirement that the building is ancillary to the use as a dwelling.
10. As the proposal is not for a separate dwelling, it follows that Policies 3.5 and 3.8 of the London Plan and DMD Policy DMD 8 are not applicable.

Character and appearance

11. The new addition would be a single storey detached building with timber walls and a dual pitched tiled roof. It would stand to one side of No 82 within its side and rear garden. It would be a sizeable addition and larger than ancillary outbuildings and structures that are generally found in the gardens of residential properties. During the site visit, I saw no outbuildings there were comparable in size to the proposal.
12. Even so, the proposal would be clearly subordinate in relation to the more substantive 2-storey host building and the site. A good-sized garden would remain with the new built form in place. With appropriate external materials and a low profile due to its modest height and shallow pitched roof, the new building would not be obtrusive. While the full-length windows would give the

proposal a residential character, its design would be simple with a utilitarian appearance that would not look out of place in a residential garden setting. Consequently, the new building would not be incongruous in its context.

13. The proposed building would be partly screened from public view by the main house and the boundary fence around the perimeter of the back garden. Only a small part of the new building would be glimpsed from the road, between the existing buildings. From this direction, the new development would be inconspicuous and have no discernable effect on the character and quality of the street scene. The upper part of the new addition would be visible from some gardens and windows of nearby properties. In these views, it would be largely seen in the context of the more substantial 2-storey flank wall of an adjacent property. In that context, the appeal development would not appear excessively large or an overly dominant addition.
14. For these reasons, I conclude on the second main issue that the proposal would not be out of keeping with the character and appearance of the local area. Accordingly, I find no material conflict with CS Policy CP30 and DMD Policies DMD 7, DMD 12 and DMD 37 insofar as they aim to ensure that development is appropriate to, and reflects an understanding of, its context and does not harm the character of the local area.

Other matters

15. The Council is critical of the appellants for failing to provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate a need for the proposed accommodation. In this instance, the proposed annexe would enable the appellant's daughter to live close to but independent from her parents. In this way, the appellants could stay in their home, thereby providing continuity and stability, while enabling them to be cared for and supported as they become more infirm and dependent. The appellants have provided a cogent case that the proposal, when taken together with the main house, would meet a need that is particular to their personal circumstances. In those circumstances, the new annexe would not, in itself, satisfy a specialist housing need, to which DMD Policy DMD 15 refers, but the application was not promulgated on the basis that it would.
16. Reference is made to case law and several recent appeal decisions involving proposals for annexes elsewhere. From the limited information provided, none appear to reflect the particular circumstances of this case. In the absence of full background details, I am unable to attach significant weight to these decisions either for or against the appeal scheme. In any event, each proposal should be considered on its own merits, as I have done in this instance.

Conditions

17. I have considered the conditions suggested by the Council in the light of relevant advice contained within the Planning Practice Guidance. In addition to the standard time limit condition, it is necessary to impose a condition that requires the development to be carried out in accordance with the approved plans for certainty. In the interests of the character and appearance of the area, a condition is necessary to require that samples of external materials are agreed before construction work starts. In addition, a condition is also necessary to ensure the proposed building remains ancillary to the main house.

Conclusion

18. For the reasons set out above, I conclude that the appeal should be allowed.


INSPECTOR

Schedule of conditions

- 1) The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than three years from the date of this decision.
- 2) The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plans: Refs 0392-12-15/1A, 0392-12-15/2A, 0392-12-15/3A and 0392-12-15/4A.
- 3) No development shall take place until samples of the materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the building hereby permitted have been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.
- 4) The building hereby permitted shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as 82 Perry Mead, Enfield EN2 8BS.