

PLANNING HERITAGE DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

32 Rosslyn Hill, London NW3

Introduction

This statement is submitted in support of a planning application for extensions to an existing apartment (over three floors – 1st 2nd and 3rd) at the above property.

The northeast side of Rosslyn Hill, namely Nos. 28-36 (evens) is characterised by 4 storey buildings topped with pitched roofs. To the rear, the prevailing development is that of 2 storey closet wing extensions, rising up to first floor level.

The site falls within the Hampstead Conservation Area. The property has been identified as a positive contributor in the Conservation Area but is not listed. The photographs below provides a view of the rear of the terrace (from Downshire Hill) as well as the rear of 30 and 32 Rosslyn Hill.





The site is 5 minute walk from Hampstead underground station and 10 minute walk from Belsize Park station. There is also a bus service from Rosslyn Hill, which goes to the under/overground stations.

Relevant LDF Core Strategy and Development Policies 2010

Core Strategy

CS5 (Managing the impact of growth and development)

CS14 (Promoting high quality places and conserving our heritage)

Development Policies

DP24 (Securing high quality design)

DP25 (Conserving Camden's heritage)

DP26 (Managing the impact of development on occupiers and neighbours)

Camden Planning Guidance 2011 CPG1 Design; CPG6 Amenity

Hampstead Conservation Area Statement (2006)

London Plan 2011

NPPF 2012

Proposal

It is proposed to extend the property at 1st and 2nd floor at the rear to provide additional accommodation. The 1st floor addition would result in a small increase of 5m², whilst the 2nd floor above will deliver 21m² making a total increase of 26m². The existing flat has a floorspace of 185m² which would increase to 211m².

The main issues for consideration are:

- The impact of the proposal upon the character or appearance of the host building and the surrounding conservation area and;
- The impact that the proposal may have upon the amenity of the occupiers of the neighbouring properties.

The proposal was subject to a formal pre-application Consultation with LB Camden Planning Department (Ref-2015/3699). The scheme initially incorporated an extension at 3rd floor level which has been omitted in accordance with the pre-application response recommendation.

Impact on the host building and surrounding area

The property is occupied as a family residence. It is intended that all work will enhance the character of the apartment and Conservation Area when completed. The proposal seeks to extend an existing dwelling to provide additional floor space and a reorganisation of the internal layout.

In terms of height, it is noted that the existing property is 4 storey in height with a pitched roof. The proposed extensions comprise 2 distinct elements namely the 1st floor and 2nd floors.

In terms of size, the proposed extension at first floor level is extremely modest, the 2nd floor providing the majority of the additional floorspace.

At its highest part it is significantly lower than the existing roof ridge and well below the eaves. Overall it is considered that the proposed extension would be subordinate to the host building.

The photograph of the rear façades of 28-36 Rossllyn Hill illustrates that the overall composition does not, in our submission, contribute positively to this part of the Hampstead CA. The present proposal would make a contribution towards improving this aspect of the “terrace”.

The current proposal would have no effect on the principal front elevation; the extension would be visible but, in our submission, well designed and of the right proportions to ensure it will appear subordinate to the existing building.

It is noted that Policies DP24 and CPG1 (design) advocate a general presumption towards resisting extensions that rise above the general height of neighbouring projections and nearby extensions.

The proposal however, represents an opportunity to improve the appearance of part of the rear façade of the “terrace” which would have a beneficial effect on this part of the Hampstead CA.

Residential Amenity

It is considered the proposal would not materially harm the living conditions of the occupiers of neighbouring properties in terms of a loss of sunlight/daylight, outlook or increased sense of enclosure than the existing arrangements.

There are a number of existing windows in the rear façades of the terrace already and it is considered the proposal would be of no greater detriment to the levels of privacy enjoyed by the occupiers of the surrounding properties than the buildings existing arrangement.

Other Relevant Planning Matters

Design and impact on the building and surrounding Conservation Area

The northeast side of Rosslyn Hill, namely Nos. 28-36 (evens) is characterised by 4 storey buildings topped with pitched roofs. To the rear, the prevailing development is that of 2 storey closet wing extensions, rising up to first floor level.

The adjacent property of No.30 however, features a recessed timber clad single storey extension and associated terrace located at second floor level, above the brick faced closet wing extension, at odds with the prevailing development within the terrace.

Constructed more than four years ago, thereby immune from enforcement action, the timber clad extension and terrace, by virtue of their arrangement, detailed design and materials are unsympathetic to the character and appearance of the host building.

The Council has granted planning permission for its replacement, on the basis that this was an opportunity to consolidate an unsympathetic and incongruous development and enhance its appearance.

The replacement extension has not yet been built; the application includes “perspectives” of the proposal both with the No. 30 extension as existing and with the replacement extension approved.

In our submission it is evident that our proposal would be of a similar scale to this addition, though more in keeping with the character and appearance of the existing terrace. The first and second floor levels would be stock brick, with a single window on the rear elevation maintaining the footprint of the existing stock brick extension below.

In consideration of Camden Planning Guidance 1 (Design), rear extensions should be designed to:

- *be secondary to the building being extended, in terms of location, form, scale, proportions, dimensions and detailing;*

Proposal complies

- *respect and preserve the original design and proportions of the building, including its architectural period and style;*

Proposal complies

- *respect and preserve existing architectural features, such as projecting bays, decorative balconies or chimney stacks;*

Not Applicable

- *respect and preserve the historic pattern and established townscape of the surrounding area, including the ratio of built to unbuilt space;*

Not Applicable

- *not cause a loss of amenity to adjacent properties with regard to sunlight, daylight, outlook, overshadowing, light pollution/spillage, privacy/overlooking, and sense of enclosure;*

Proposal complies

A separate Sunlight and Daylight Assessment has been supplied which concludes the proposed extension would not have a material impact on the properties either side.

The submitted plans do not indicate windows along the flank walls of the rear extension.

The only new windows are to be located on the rear elevation and the flat roof, hence the proposal would not directly face neighbouring windows and therefore no overlooking would occur. Accordingly the proposal would comply with Policy DP26.

- *allow for the retention of a reasonable sized garden; and*
- *retain the open character of existing natural landscaping and garden amenity, including that of neighbouring properties, proportionate to that of the surrounding area.*

Not Applicable

Noise and disturbance

No new plant is proposed nor indeed any relocation of existing plant. Accordingly there will be no additional noise generated as a result of the proposed extensions.

Other Material Considerations

The proposed new room is designated to house the elderly parents (in their late 70's) of Daniella Fachler, both of whom are disabled and have great difficulty in climbing up and down stairs.

Every time they walk in and out of the house they need to climb four (4) flights of stairs – to the room in the top floor - which is the only place where they can be accommodated today. Needless to say this is very difficult and severely restricts their freedom of movement. The proposed extension would halve that journey – having to climb only two flights of stairs – this is a small but significant improvement in their (and our) quality of life.

Daniella's father is an arm amputee and as a result suffered spine deformation and hip damage. Despite two operations he has difficulties walking and has a disabled badge on his car. Daniella's mother has foot damage as a result of an unsuccessful operations that resulted in fusing of her toes making it very painful to walk, even with custom made shoes. She also suffers from a heart condition that resulted in the implantation of a pace-maker.

Daniella Fachler and her partner would very much like to care for her elderly parents and for them to stay with them and their grandchildren; at the moment this is quite challenging and in our submission the proposed extension will greatly help in this regard.

Conclusions

The proposed rear extension would have no effect on the principal front elevation; the extension would be visible but, in our submission, well designed and of the right proportions to ensure it will appear subordinate to the existing building.

The overall appearance of the building has been designed to be in keeping with the Hampstead Conservation Area and the development will be sympathetic to the existing building both in terms of detailing and materials.



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This would result in a building which would blend into the local streetscape and reinforce the wider townscape and result in an improvement to the existing rear facade.

The proposals would not have any material impact on the amenities of the occupiers of the two houses on either side.

In summary, the extensions and alterations proposed have been designed with careful regard to the relevant Policies of the adopted Development Plan and the relevant Design Guidance and in our submission comply with the applicable criteria set out in a preceding section to this Statement.

In summary it is considered that the proposal merits Officer support and the grant of conditional planning permission.

SJP/04/11/2015