

2. LPA PRINCIPLE CONCERNS WITH THE PROPOSALS

The advice received from the LPA in respect of the earlier dormer application 2017/3856/P is as follows:

The property semi-detached and considered a pair and I can see from the block plan that there are no dormer extension erected to the rear of the neighbouring property. In addition, we have adopted our Local Plan 2017 [Camden Council: Planning policy documents](#) and policy D1 (Design) is relevant which states:

- New design should respect the local context and character;
- character, setting, context and the form and scale of neighbouring buildings;
- the character and proportions of the existing building, where alterations and extensions are proposed;
- the prevailing pattern, density and scale of surrounding development;
- the impact on existing rhythms, symmetries and uniformities in the townscape, and;
- the composition of elevations;

Also of importance is CPG 1 Design [Camden Council: Supplementary planning documents \(SPDs\)](#) Which points B and C are relevant:

The pitch of the existing roof is sufficient to allow adequate habitable space without the creation of disproportionately large dormers or raising the roof ridge. Dormers should not be introduced to shallow pitched roofs.

b) Dormers should not be introduced where they cut through the roof ridge or the sloped edge of a hipped roof. They should also be sufficiently below the ridge of the roof in order to avoid projecting into the roofline when viewed from a distance. Usually a 500mm gap is required between the dormer and the ridge or hip to maintain this separation (see Figure 4). Full-length dormers, on both the front and rear of the property, will be discouraged to minimise the prominence of these structures.

c) Dormers should not be introduced where they interrupt an unbroken roofscape.

d) In number, form, scale and pane size, the dormer and window should relate to the façade below and the surface area of the roof. They should appear as separate small projections on the roof surface. They should generally be aligned with windows on the lower floors and be of a size that is clearly subordinate to the windows below. In some very narrow frontage houses, a single dormer placed centrally may be preferable (see Figure 4). It is important to ensure the dormer sides (“cheeks”) are no wider than the structure requires as this can give an overly dominant appearance. Deep fascias and eaves gutters should be avoided.

e) Where buildings have a parapet the lower edge of the dormer should be located below the parapet line (see Figure 4).

f) Materials should complement the main building and the wider townscape and the use of traditional materials such as timber, lead and hanging tiles are preferred.

Unfortunately the above is also reaffirm in policy 2 of the Fortune Green and West Hampstead neighbourhood plan 2015 which is also material consideration. Due to the semi-detached nature of the development and the unbroken roofscape combined with the extension design and appearance your proposal would be unacceptable.

Essentially, the view was that the scheme represented over-development of the site, and that the quantum of residential accommodation should be reduced in order to provide a better quality scheme.

The LPA have not as yet provided any further information in respect of application ref 2017/4547/P Rear extension/additional storey above the back addition but it is thought that the above objections will be raised together with the proposed height and width of the rear extension as contained within policies D1, CPG 1 and The Fortune Green and West Hampstead Neighbourhood Plan

The relevant sections of these policies have been extracted and listed below:

Policy D1 Design

The Council will seek to secure high quality design in development. The Council will require that development:

- a. respects local context and character;
- b. preserves or enhances the historic environment and heritage assets in accordance with "Policy D2 Heritage";
- c. is sustainable in design and construction, incorporating best practice in resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
- d. is of sustainable and durable construction and adaptable to different activities and land uses;
- e. comprises details and materials that are of high quality and complement the local character;
- f. integrates well with the surrounding streets and open spaces, improving movement through the site and wider area with direct, accessible and easily recognisable routes and contributes positively to the street frontage;
- g. is inclusive and accessible for all;
- h. promotes health;
- i. is secure and designed to minimise crime and antisocial behaviour;
- j. responds to natural features and preserves gardens and other open space;
- k. incorporates high quality landscape design (including public art, where appropriate) and maximises opportunities for greening for example through planting of trees and other soft landscaping,
- l. incorporates outdoor amenity space;
- m. preserves strategic and local views;
- n. for housing, provides a high standard of accommodation; and
- o. carefully integrates building services equipment.

The Council will resist development of poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions.

Rear extensions

4.9 A rear extension is often the most appropriate way to extend a house or property. However, rear extensions that are insensitively or inappropriately designed can spoil the appearance of a property or group of properties and harm the amenity of neighbouring properties, for example in terms of outlook and access to daylight and sunlight. General principles

4.10 Rear extensions should be designed to:

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

- respect and preserve the original design and proportions of the building, including its architectural period and style;
- respect and preserve existing architectural features, such as projecting bays, decorative balconies or chimney stacks;
- respect and preserve the historic pattern and established townscape of the surrounding area, including the ratio of built to unbuilt space;
- 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; • 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.

4.11 Materials should be chosen that are sympathetic to the existing building wherever possible (see also CPG3 Sustainability on Sustainable use of materials).

Height of rear extensions

4.12 In order for new extensions to be subordinate to the original building, their heights should respect the existing pattern of rear extensions, where they exist. Ground floor extensions are generally considered preferable to those at higher levels. The maximum acceptable height of an extension should be determined in relation to the points outlined in paragraph 4.10 above. In cases where a higher extension is appropriate, a smaller footprint will generally be preferable to compensate for any increase in visual mass and bulk, overshadowing and overlooking that would be caused by the additional height.

4.13 In most cases, extensions that are higher than one full storey below roof eaves/parapet level, or that rise above the general height of neighbouring projections and nearby extensions, will be strongly discouraged.

Width of rear extensions

4.14 The width of rear extensions should be designed so that they are not visible from the street and should respect the rhythm of existing rear extensions.

4.15 In addition, the rear of some buildings may be architecturally distinguished, either forming a harmonious composition, or visually contributing to the townscape. The Council will seek to preserve these where appropriate. Some of the Borough's important rear elevations are identified in conservation area statements, appraisals and management plans.

FORTUNE GREEN & WEST HAMPSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

POLICY 2: Design & Character

All development shall be of a high quality of design, which complements and enhances the distinct local character and identity of Fortune Green and West Hampstead. This shall be achieved by:

- i. Development which positively interfaces with the street and streetscape in which it is located.
- ii. Development which maintains the positive contributions to character of existing buildings and structures.
- iii. Development which is human in scale, in order to maintain and create a positive relationship between buildings and street level activity.
- iv. Development which has regard to the form, function, structure and heritage of its context - including the scale, mass, orientation, pattern and grain of surrounding buildings, streets and spaces.
- v. A presumption in favour of a colour palate which reflects, or is in harmony with, the materials of its context.
- vi. New buildings and extensions that respect and are sensitive to the height of existing buildings in their vicinity and setting. Tall buildings in the Growth Area will need to have regard to their impact on the setting of the two immediately adjacent conservation areas, in order to avoid any negative impact on them.
- vii. Extensions - and infill development - being in character and proportion with its context and setting, including the relationship to any adjoining properties.
- viii. The provision of associated high quality public realm.
- ix. Having regard to the impact on local views across the Area and the streetscapes within the Area (as identified in A11 and Map 2).
- x. Development which aims to fulfil the criteria set out in Building for Life 12 (as detailed in A18).

A14. Roof extensions and loft conversions should fit in with existing rooflines and be in keeping with existing development. Such extensions should be in proportion to the existing building and should not block views.