

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Report Of The Head Of Planning  
To the West and North Planning and Highways Committee  
Date Of Meeting: 07/05/2013

LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR DECISION OR INFORMATION

\*NOTE\* Under the heading "Representations" a Brief Summary of Representations received up to a week before the Committee date is given (later representations will be reported verbally). The main points only are given for ease of reference. The full letters are on the application file, which is available to members and the public and will be at the meeting.

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Case Number	13/00199/FUL
Application Type	Full Planning Application
Proposal	Erection of a dwellinghouse
Location	Curtilage Of Wadsley Lodge 1 Laird Road Sheffield S6 4BS
Date Received	17/01/2013
Team	West and North
Applicant/Agent	Hooley Tratt Partnership Ltd
Recommendation	Refuse

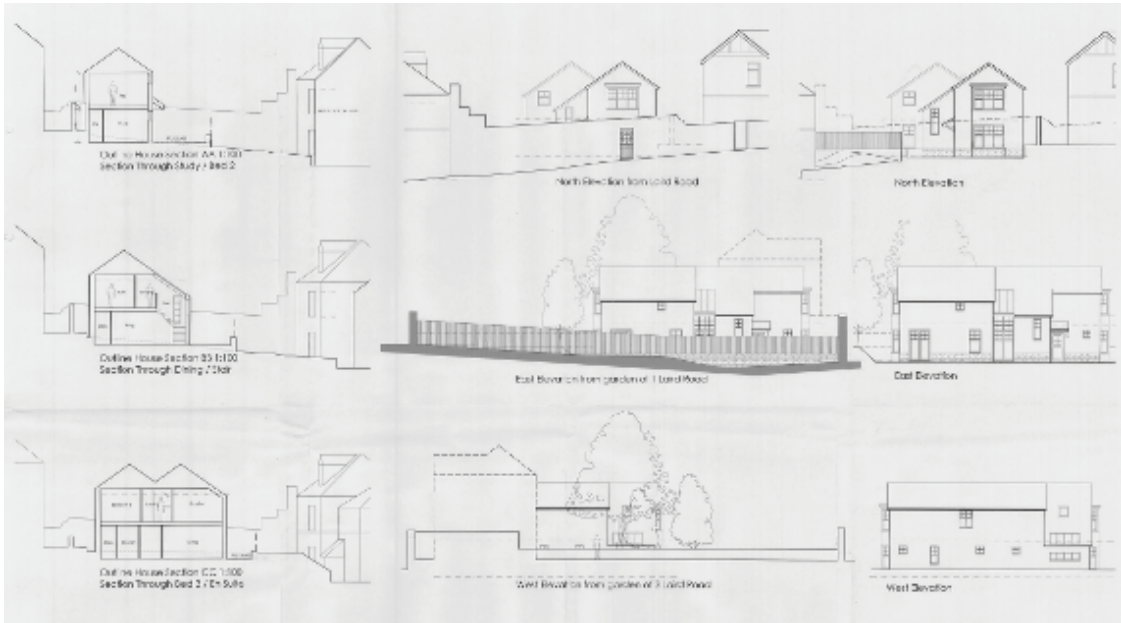
For the following reason(s):

- 1 The Local Planning Authority considers that the erection of the proposed dwellinghouse by reason of its scale and massing and facing materials gives rise to an unsatisfactory form of development that would be harmful to the character and appearance of the surrounding area and therefore contrary to the aims of Policies H14 and BE5 of the Unitary Development Plan and Policy CS74 of the Sheffield Core Strategy.

# Site Location



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**LOCATION AND PROPOSAL**

The application relates to part of the side garden curtilage of an attractive two and a half storey stone constructed detached dwellinghouse in Wadsley. The host dwellinghouse (No. 1 Laird Road) is situated on the southern side of Laird Road and is situated in a Housing Area and at one time was previously used as a small school.

The dwellinghouse has two road frontages, with Laird Road to the north and Wadsley Park Crescent to the south. To Laird Road is an attractive 3m high stone wall that encloses the site from this road. Vehicular access is taken from Wadsley Park Crescent through a set of double gates that leads into a hardstanding area for the parking of at least 2 vehicles. The property sits within a very generous and well landscaped garden curtilage of some 0.13 hectares. A number of trees are located within the site; these are located mainly to the site boundaries to the south, east and west. The property itself is an attractive Victorian 'villa type' dwellinghouse that is faced in coursed natural stone with a natural slate roof. It is sited towards its Laird Road frontage. The property has two key outlooks with its main habitable windows facing south and west.

The surrounding area contains a mix of dwelling types both in terms of its materials and design. To the west of the site and situated behind a high stone boundary wall is Nos. 3 and 3a Laird Road. This neighbouring property is two storeys in height (part render, part brick) and comprises a first floor obscured bathroom window within its gable elevation facing the site. This property is significantly screened from the application site by high stone walling and high dense landscaping and trees along its western boundary.

The application site is situated to the west of the host property and measures approximately 0.04 hectares. It is roughly rectangular in area (33m by 16m at its widest points) and stretches from Laird Road to Wadsley Park Crescent. The ground levels of the application site are approximately 1.5m higher than the siting of 1 Laird Road.

The applicant is seeking full planning permission to erect a 3-bedroomed two storey detached dwellinghouse on this site. The property would be effectively 'L' shaped in appearance consisting of two front and rear sections that would be offset to each other. It would be sited to the north west corner of the site towards its Laird Road frontage. Off-street parking for two vehicles would be provided to the rear of the site from Wadsley Park Crescent. A new opening would be created within the existing high stone boundary wall to Laird Road to allow pedestrian access onto this road. To accommodate the dwellinghouse, two outbuildings that are situated adjacent and that abut up against the high stone boundary wall to Laird Road would be demolished. A new boundary with low stone walling and timber close boarded fence would be erected to a maximum height of 1.8m to demarcate the boundary between the new dwellinghouse and 1 Laird Road.

#### RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

Planning permission was refused to erect a detached bungalow on this site in March 2003, under planning reference No. 04/00364/FUL. It was refused on two grounds, firstly that the proposed dwellinghouse would result in the significant loss of garden space to No. 1 Laird Road and would appear to be 'squeezed in' that would have an adverse impact upon the character of the locality, and secondly, that the proposed dwellinghouse would result in unacceptable overlooking of adjacent property and gardens as well as resulting in overlooking of the new dwellinghouse.

The decision of the Council to refuse the application was appealed against by the applicant, under appeal reference No. APP/J4423/A/04/1150958. The Planning Inspector considered that both the proposed dwelling and the existing house would have adequate garden space and did not agree with the Council that it would appear 'squeezed in'. The Inspector did however raise significant concerns with regard overlooking between the proposed dwellinghouse and the existing house. He considered that owing to the bungalow being sited close to the rear and side elevation of 1 Laird Road that comprises a number of windows, the erection of the bungalow would result in an unacceptable level of overlooking and loss of privacy between the two properties and dismissed the appeal.

## SUMMARY OF REPRESENTATIONS

The residents of both No. 3 and 3a Laird Road have raised an objection to the application for the following reasons:-

- The development will severely impact on traffic on Laird Road;
- Unless the dwellinghouse is constructed in matching materials as the existing property it will be out of keeping with the surrounding buildings;
- Noise disruption during the construction of the dwellinghouse;
- The stone boundary wall (western boundary) needs significant repair and;
- The foliage and trees have been left to overgrow resulting in no sunlight reaching the garden of the property.
- The reason the previous application was refused is still valid with the house being squeezed in and the lack of privacy.
- The development of a greenfield site and loss of open space;
- Loss of mature trees;
- Affect the integrity of the adjacent house's foundations

## PLANNING ASSESSMENT

It is considered that the main issues relevant to this application are as follows:-

- (i) The principle of development - Policy and Land Use;
- (ii) Highway Issues;
- (iii) Design Issues and its affect on the character and appearance of the surrounding area; and
- (iv) Impact on the amenity of any adjoining residential properties.

These are considered in turn below.

### (i) Principle of Development

The application site is situated in a Housing Area, where housing is the preferred use under Policy H10.

While the development would accord with Policy H10 of the UDP in terms of use, consideration should also be given to the development of a greenfield site, given that the application site currently forms part of the side garden of the existing house. The relevant policy position with regard the use of previously developed

land for new housing is Policy CS24. This policy states that priority will be given to the development of previously developed sites and no more than 12% of dwelling completions will be on greenfield sites in the period between 2004/05 and 2025/26. It goes on to state that the development of greenfield sites may be acceptable on small sites within the existing urban areas and larger villages, where it can be justified on sustainability grounds.

With regard to this, the latest figures show that the Council is exceeding its target of achieving 88% of all development on previously developed land. The site is situated within Wadsley and close to Hillsborough that benefits from a range of shops, schools and good public transport service within walking distance of the site.

The erection of a single dwellinghouse on this site is therefore unlikely to prejudice or undermine the Council's targets for the development of previously developed land across the city, while its location close to shops and good public transport links can be justified on sustainability grounds.

The principle of erecting a single detached dwellinghouse is therefore accepted and would meet the terms of UDP Policy H10 and Core Strategy Policy CS24.

#### (ii) Highway Issues

It is not considered that the development raises any significant highway implications. The plans show that the proposed dwellinghouse would be provided with two off-street parking spaces that would be provided on a hardstanding adjacent to Wadsley Park Crescent. Access would be taken from this highway and involve removing part of the site's rear stone boundary wall. The existing dwellinghouse would continue to be provided with off-street parking for two vehicles. This level of parking is considered acceptable and unlikely to lead to any significant pressure for on street parking that would prejudice highway safety.

It is noted that to implement the proposed vehicular crossing onto Wadsley Park Avenue, a large highway tree is likely to require felling. This tree is not protected under a TPO. It is recommended therefore that along with the standard highway conditions, as a condition of planning approval, a condition is attached that secures a replacement tree at the expense of the applicant.

#### (iii) Design Issues and the Affect of the Development on the character and appearance of the surrounding area

UDP Policy H14 relates to conditions on development in Housing Areas. It details at Part (a) that new buildings and extensions are well designed and would be in scale and character with neighbouring buildings.

UDP Policy BE5 seeks to ensure good design and the use of good quality materials in all new and refurbished buildings and extensions. The principles that should be followed include encouraging original architecture where this does not detract from the scale, form and style of surrounding buildings, the use of special

architectural treatment be given to corner sites and that designs should take advantage of the site's natural features.

Core Strategy Policy CS74 sets out the design principles that would be expected in all new developments. It details that high quality development respect and take advantage of and enhance the distinctive features of the city, its districts and neighbourhoods. At Part (c) it includes the townscape character of neighbourhoods with their associated scale, layout and built form, building styles and materials.

The proposed dwellinghouse would be erected adjacent to the respective side elevations of both No. 1 Laird Road and Nos. 3 and 3a and Laird Road with its principal outlook facing front (street) and back (garden). The main body of the dwellinghouse would be effective 'L' shaped in appearance and be designed with two separate two storey sections that are off-set from one another. The two sections would be linked by a side lean-to structure with extended roof. The roof slope of the rear two storey section of the dwellinghouse would comprise an extended roof slope that would extend over the south western and lower section of the dwellinghouse's gable wall. To each of the dwellinghouse's front and rear gable walls would be a full height square bay window. Features of the property's design include glazed screens along part of the lower section of the roof and walling of the lean-to section facing 1 Laird Road and at the south western section (roof section only), entrance canopy and timber eaves. It would be faced principally in white render above a natural stone base. The roof would be finished in slate.

The application as submitted improves upon the scheme that was submitted at pre-application stage with the retention of the high stone boundary wall and the dwellinghouse's revised siting to Laird Road particularly welcome. However, despite the amendments made to the scheme, concerns remain with the scale and massing of the proposed dwellinghouse, its predominant use of render for its external appearance and to a lesser extent the design that includes a plethora of roof pitches, gables and extrusions, which creates somewhat of a cluttered visual appearance.

It is accepted by officers that the application site (0.04 hectares) is large enough to accommodate a modest dwellinghouse without resulting in any significant harm to the character and appearance of the surrounding area. However, it is considered that the overall scale and massing of the dwellinghouse, particularly its rear two storey section is not appropriate to the context of the site. It is considered that the house would appear somewhat cramped on the site, particular when viewed alongside the much larger property to its east. The host property in officers' opinion merits a large setting and a measure of separation from the proposed house. While 1 Laird Road would still benefit from a large garden curtilage, and a separation distance of 12m would be maintained between the side elevation of the two properties, it is considered that the house would be effectively 'shoehorned' in the narrower section of the site. The appearance of the property would be exacerbated by the fact that it would be sited in very close proximity to the proposed new side boundary wall/fence, in parts only 1m away, and the site's higher ground levels (approximately 1.5m) to 1 Laird Road. Despite the high boundary treatment, the building would be clearly seen in context with the host property from both adjacent highways. Lowering the rear section to the house in

officers' opinion would significantly reduce the overall massing of the building and allow the building to sit more comfortably on site and form a more subservient and sympathetic addition to the setting of the host property. This suggestion however was not accepted by the applicant.

It is also considered that the predominant use of render is inappropriate to its context given the facing materials of the host property (natural stone) and its close relationship to the host property. While it is accepted that 3 Laird Road is part rendered, the proposed house would be viewed more in context with 1 Laird Road than No 3 Laird Road owing to the high western boundary wall and planting along this boundary. Reference should therefore be taken from the host property in terms of the proposed material palette. The applicant has suggested that she would be prepared to consider using natural stone along its front elevation facing Laird Road, but in officers' opinion, this would only address how the property would be viewed from parts of this road and fails to account other key views of the property, namely from Wadsley Park Crescent.

For the reasons set out above, it is considered that the development is contrary to UDP Policies H14 (a) and Policy BE5 and Core Strategy CS74.

#### (iv) Residential Amenity Issues

It is considered that the properties most affected by the development are Nos. 3 and 3a Laird Road to the west of the site and the host property (1 Laird Road). All other neighbouring properties are adequately distanced and screened from the proposed dwellinghouse that any affect on their residential amenity as a result of the development in terms of overlooking and loss of outlook is likely to be minimal.

With regard Nos. 3 and 3a Laird Road, this building has a first floor window within its gable wall facing the application. This window is understood to serve a bathroom of the property and is obscured glazed. Also, with exception to a secondary ground floor kitchen window, the proposed dwellinghouse would have no other windows that serve habitable rooms along its western elevation facing this neighbouring property and rear garden. The western boundary also benefits from a high stone boundary wall and dense shrubbery along its boundary.

The applicant has also demonstrated that the proposed development would comply with the 45 degree rule in that the furthest part of the furthest part of the dwellinghouse (2 storey rear section) would not project out further than the distance from the 1st floor window of the adjacent property to the furthest part of the rear section.

Any affect on these two western neighbouring properties' residential amenity would therefore be minimal.

With regard 1 Laird Road, while this neighbouring property has a number of ground and first windows within its side elevation and includes a side dormer window that serve main and habitable rooms of the house, it is not considered that the erection of the proposed house would result in any significant loss of outlook or overlooking to the detriment of this property. To avoid any significant loss of privacy between



properties, the internal layout of the house has been arranged to avoid main rooms of the house being primarily lit by windows along its side (eastern) elevation. With exception to two secondary windows serving the living room and a third serving the study room (obscured glazed and non-opening), no other main windows of the house would be inserted within its side elevation facing 1 Laird Road. The applicant has also agreed to obscure the first floor side bedroom window to avoid overlooking of the rear garden of the proposed dwellinghouse. Subject to appropriate conditions being attached to any grant of planning, it is not considered that the development would result in any significant problems of overlooking between the two properties.

On the ground floor, the property has two ground floor side windows, one serving one of the property's three reception rooms and the other a kitchen. The kitchen window is also lit by a large window within its rear elevation. Of the property's three first floor side windows, two serve bedrooms and the other serves a stair/landing window. These bedrooms however are also lit by windows that have a south facing aspect, although it is noted that one of these is the secondary means of light and outlook into the bedroom and gains its main outlook and light from the window that faces west towards the application site. With regard to these windows, while it is noted that some main windows face onto the application site, a separation distance of approximately 12m would be maintained between the side elevation of the proposed house and these main side windows. This distance would accord with the guidance contained in SPG Designing House Extensions (Guideline 5) and subsequently should mean that the house would not appear overbearing or result in any significant loss of outlook to the detriment of this neighbouring property.

In terms of the attic bedroom, inspection of the cross section drawings show that views from the side dormer window that lights this room would be mainly taken across and above the property's roof. Owing to this, and that the distance between the dormer window and roof slope is approximately 14m should avoid any significant loss of outlook from this attic room.

#### Other Issues

It is noted that concerns have been raised by residents of the two neighbouring properties regarding the state of the western stone boundary wall, the loss of trees, noise and disruption during the course of the development and affect of the development on the foundations of the neighbouring property.

The issues raised in terms of the boundary wall and the affect of the development on neighbouring properties are not planning related and should be disregarded in terms of the merits of this application. The trees are not protected under a TPO and can be felled without the need to seek approval, while in terms of noise disturbance, given that the development is small scale and situated by a high stone boundary wall, any affect on these neighbouring properties' amenity is unlikely to be significant that would require special protection measures during its construction.

#### SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

Full planning permission is being sought to erect a two storey detached house within part of the side garden curtilage of an attractive two and half storey detached house that is situated on the southern side of Laird Road in Wadsley.

The principle of erecting a house on this site is considered to be acceptable and is unlikely to prejudice or undermine the Council's targets for the development of previously developed land across the city. It is considered that subject to careful design and siting, the erection of a modest dwellinghouse can be accommodated without harming the noted character and appearance of the existing property or the visual amenity of the surrounding area. However, serious concerns are raised with regard to the scale and massing of the proposed dwellinghouse and its predominant use of render for its external appearance. It is considered that the proposed development is not appropriate to the context of the site and would detract from the overall character of the immediate vicinity of the site.

The proposed parking and access arrangements are considered acceptable and can be adequately secured by condition.

It is considered that the development would not result in the residential amenity of neighbouring properties to be significantly affected. Although the host property comprises a number of windows along its side facing the application site, the siting of the dwellinghouse to this host property (approximately 12m) and the fact that this property has open aspect windows within its rear elevation should avoid this neighbouring property to be subject to any significant loss of amenity from a loss of privacy or loss of outlook.

For the reasons given above and having regard to all other matters raised, it is considered that the development fails to accord with UDP Policies H14 (a) and BE5 and Core Strategy CS74 and is recommended for refusal.