

Comhairle Chontae Atha Cliath Theas

PR/0689/22

Record of Executive Business and Chief Executive's Order

Reg. Reference: SD22B/0141 **Application Date:** 07-Apr-2022
Submission Type: New Application **Registration Date:** 07-Apr-2022
Correspondence Name and Address: HH Draughting 118, Meadow Grove, Dundrum, Dublin, D16 A036
Proposed Development: Conversion of existing attic space; modifications of existing roof structure to gable, raising existing gable wall, dormer to rear and new access stairs.
Location: 2 Sylvan Close,, Kingswood Heights,, Dublin 24
Applicant Name: Ciara Doyle and Ciarán Griffin
Application Type: Permission

(COS)

Description of Site and Surroundings

Site Area: stated as 0.02 Hectares on the application.
Site Visit: 12th of May 2022.

Site Description

The subject site abuts Sylvan Close to the west and Sylvan Drive to the east and is located within an existing housing estate in Kingswood Heights. The site's vehicular access is from Sylvan Close. The site consists of a semi-detached two storey dwelling with a hipped roof. The streetscape consists of housing of a similar form and character.

Proposal

Permission is being sought for the conversion of existing attic space; modifications of existing roof structure to gable, raising existing gable wall, dormer to rear and new access stairs.

Zoning

The subject site is zoned 'RES': *'To protect and/or improve residential amenity'* under the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022.

Consultations

None.

SEA Sensitivity Screening – no overlap indicated.

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Submissions/Observations /Representations

None received.

Relevant Planning History

None.

Relevant Enforcement History

None identified in APAS.

Pre-Planning Consultation

None identified in APAS.

Relevant Policy in South Dublin County Council Development Plan 2016 – 2022

Section 2.4.1 Residential Extensions

Policy H18 Residential Extensions

It is the policy of the Council to support the extension of existing dwellings subject to the protection of residential and visual amenities.

Policy H18 Objective 1:

To favorably consider proposals to extend existing dwellings subject to the protection of residential and visual amenities and compliance with the standards set out in Chapter 11 Implementation and the guidance set out in the South Dublin County Council House Extension Design Guide, 2010 (or any superseding guidelines).

Section 11.2.7 Building Height

Section 11.3.1 Residential

Section 11.3.1 (iv) Dwelling Standards

Section 11.3.1 (v) Privacy

Section 11.3.3 Additional Accommodation

Section 11.3.3 (i) Extensions

Section 11.4.2 Car Parking Standards

Table 11.24 Maximum Parking Rates (Residential Development)

Section 11.4.4 Car Parking Design and Layout

Section 11.7.1 Energy Performance in Existing Buildings

Section 11.8.1 Environmental Impact Assessment

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Section 11.8.2 Appropriate Assessment

South Dublin County Council House Extension Design Guide (2010)

The House Extension design guide contains the following guidance on house extensions, including side extensions and attic conversions and dormer windows.

Elements of Good Extension Design

- *Respect the appearance and character of the house and local area;*
- *Provide comfortable internal space and useful outside space;*
- *Do not overlook, overshadow, or have an overbearing affect on properties next door;*
- *Consider the type of extension that is appropriate and how to integrate it; and*
- *Incorporate energy efficient measures where possible.*

Side extensions

- *Extending a hipped roof to the side to create a gabled end or half-hip will rarely be acceptable, particularly if the hipped roof is visually prominent and typical of other houses along the street.*

Attic conversions and dormer windows

- *Use materials to match the existing wall or roof materials of the main house.*
- *Meet Building Regulation requirements relating to fire safety and stairs in terms of headroom on stairs and means of escape.*
- *Locate dormer windows below the ridge of the roof, even if the roof has a shallow pitch.*
- *Locate dormer windows as far back as possible from the eaves line (at least three tile courses).*
- *Relate dormer windows to the windows and doors below in alignment, proportion, and character.*
- *In the case of a dormer window extension to a hipped roof, ensure it sits below the ridgelines of the existing roof and matches the materials used in the main house.*
- *Do not obscure the main ridge and eaves features of the roof, particularly in the case of an extension to the side of a hipped roof.*
- *Avoid extending the full width of the roof or right up to the gable ends – two small dormers on the same elevation can often be a suitable alternative to one large dormer.*
- *Avoid dormer windows that are over-dominant in appearance or give the appearance of a flat roof.*
- *Avoid the use of flat-roofed dormer window extensions on houses with hipped rooflines.*

Relevant Government Guidelines

Project Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework, Government of Ireland, (2018).

Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy 2019 - 2031, Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly, (2019).

Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas - Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government (2009).

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Urban Design Manual: A Best Practice Guide, A Companion Document to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, Department of the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government, (2009).

Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities-Best Practice Guidelines, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (2007).

Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, (2009).

OPR Practice Note PN01 Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management (March 2021).

Assessment

The main issues for assessment relate to:

- Zoning and Council Policy;
- Visual and Residential Amenity;
- Services and Drainage;
- Environmental Impact Assessment; and
- Appropriate Assessment.

Zoning and Council Policy

The proposed development is consistent in principle with zoning objective 'RES': *'To protect and/or improve residential amenity'*. New residential extensions to existing dwellings are permissible in principle under this zoning objective, subject to their being in accordance with the relevant provisions of the South Dublin County Council House Extension Design Guide 2010.

Visual and Residential Amenity

Change in roof profile

The proposed development would involve extending the existing hipped roof to a full gable roof. Under the House Extension Design Guide *"Extending a hipped roof to the side to create a gabled end or half-hip will rarely be acceptable, particularly if the hipped roof is visually prominent and typical of other houses along the street"*. The streetscape and wider area consist largely of semi-detached dwellings with hipped roofs. A full gable end roof at the subject site is not considered to be in compliance with the Design Guide and would appear out of character with the predominant roof form in the area.

The subject site is located within a row of houses and a gable end roof would be out of character with the hipped roof of these houses. It would also not be in keeping with the dominant character of the surrounding area and would not accord visually in this location. It is considered that the roof profile should be redesigned to incorporate a 'Dutch' half-hipped roof. **The applicant should be requested to address this by way of submitting additional information.** As a result of any

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changes to the proposed roof profile the applicant should ensure that the proposed rear dormer extension is appropriately located on the roof.

In terms of materials and finishes the proposed roof extension would match the existing roof and external walls. This is acceptable.

Attic conversion/dormer window

The proposed development would also provide for the construction of a flat-roofed dormer extension on the rear slope of the roof. The House Extension Design Guide recommends that dormers are set at least 100mm from the ridge of the roof and at least 3 tile courses from the eaves. The dormer would be sufficiently setback from the eaves, however, would not be set back from the ridge of the roof. **This should be provided for via additional information.**

The proposed attic conversion would have a floor to ceiling height of approx. 2.1m. A note should be attached in the event of a grant of permission stating that in order to use the attic for habitable space it must comply with the Building Regulations.

The proposed windows would match existing. The dormer extension would have selected cladding. Given that the rear boundary of the subject site adjoins Sylvan Drive, this extension would be easily visible from the streetscape. As such, a more in keeping material should be proposed that matches or complements the existing dwelling. **This should be addressed via additional information.**

Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment

Having regard to the modest nature of the proposed development, and the distance of the site from nearby sensitive receptors, there is no likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development. The need for environmental impact assessment can, therefore, be excluded at preliminary examination and a screening determination is not required.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

The applicant has not provided information to assist the screening for Appropriate Assessment. The subject site is not located within nor within close proximity to a European site. The development would involve alterations to an existing dwelling.

Having regard to:

- the small scale and domestic nature of the development,
- the location of the development in a serviced area, and
- the consequent absence of a pathway to the European site,

it is considered that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect individually, or in-combination with other plans and projects, on the Natura 2000 network and appropriate assessment is not therefore required.

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Conclusion

Having regard to the:

- provisions of the South Dublin County Development Plan 2016-2022 and South Dublin County Council House Extension Design Guide (2010),
- the established character of the area, and
- the nature and scale of the proposed development,

it is considered that **Additional Information** is required to ensure the proposed development would be in compliance with Council policy, would not seriously injure the amenities of the remainder of the development, and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Recommendation

I recommend that **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** be requested from the applicant with regard to the following:

1. The subject site is located within a row of houses and a gable end roof would be out of character with the hipped roof of these houses. It would also not be in keeping with the dominant character of the surrounding area and would not accord visually in this location. The applicant is requested to redesign the proposed development to incorporate a 'Dutch' half-hipped roof. A full set of revised drawings should be submitted. As a result of any changes to the proposed roof profile the applicant should ensure that the proposed rear dormer extension is appropriately located on the roof.
2. The SDCC House Extension Design Guide (2010) recommends that dormers are set at least 100mm from the ridge of the roof and at least 3 tile courses from the eaves. The dormer would be sufficiently setback from the eaves, however, would not be set back from the ridge of the roof. The applicant is requested to submit a revised proposed development with the dormer extension set back at least 100mm from the ridge of the roof. The applicant is also requested to revise the proposed external materials of the dormer extension, so that it matches or complements the existing dwelling.

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LOCATION: 2 Sylvan Close,, Kingswood Heights,, Dublin 24

Colm Harte

**Colm Harte,
Senior Executive Planner**

ORDER: I direct that **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** be requested from the applicant as set out in the above report and that notice thereof be served on the applicant.

Date:

1/8/22

E. R. A.

Eoin Burke, Senior Planner