Stiles Yard, West Street, Alresford

10/02993/LBC





Legend	
Scale:	

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Organisation	Winchester City Council	
Department	Development Services	
Comments		
Date	09 March 2011	
SLA Number	00018301	

Item No: 5

Case No: 10/02993/LBC / W08445/16

Proposal Description: Conversion and demolition of existing buildings and new build

to provide 9 no. new dwellings comprising: 1 no. four bed, 3 no. three bed, 2 no. two bed and 3 no. one bed dwellings; with

associated car parking

Address: Stiles Yard West Street Alresford Hampshire

Parish, or Ward if within New Alresford

Winchester City:

Applicants Name: Mr And Mrs Davis
Case Officer: Mrs Jane Rarok
Date Valid: 18 November 2010

Site Factors: New Alresford - Boundary amendments May 1999, Published

November 2001 Conservation Area

Within 50m of Listed Building

Recommendation: Application Permitted

General Comments

This application is reported to the Committee because of the number of objections received to the accompanying planning application (ref: 10/02291/FUL, Item 3).

Site Description

This site is an area of land to the rear of buildings which front West Street and Broad Street. It contains two storage buildings associated with a shop on Broad Street, a yard which has formerly been used as car parking, and an area of grass to the west. The site measures approximately 0.22ha and is generally flat.

The storage buildings reflect the linear form of the original burgage plots, which extended back to the rear of the buildings on Broad Street. Two of these buildings are curtilage listed and they are generally in a poor state of repair. The buildings around the site, which front West Street and Broad Street to the south and east, are all listed. To the south of the storage buildings is another long building called Bowland House, which is used as offices.

The northern boundary of the site is adjacent to a long narrow plot which is part of the curtilage of the bookshop on Broad Street. This is predominantly a garden but there is also a two storey outbuilding adjacent to this boundary, which appears to be being used for storage for the bookshop. To the west of the site are residential properties within Bay Tree Yard. There is a sycamore tree just outside the northern boundary and some garden and conifer trees within the grassed area to the west.

The site is accessed via a vehicular entrance from West Street. This entrance runs between Nos. 14 and 16 West Street and past No 16A West Street, a two storey dwelling which fronts east onto the access route. The site is almost completely hidden from public views from West Street and Broad Street, save for the vehicular access from West Street.

Proposal

This application is for an extension of time for an existing extant permission which is due to expire on 1st December 2011 (See refs: 08/02243/FUL, 08/02244/LIS and 08/02245/LBC, below). Of the two existing buildings on the site, the approved scheme seeks to convert these where possible, and demolish and rebuild where not. It also includes the construction of four other units and conversion/rebuilding of two existing buildings.

Relevant Planning History

08/02243/FUL: Conversion and demolition of existing buildings and new build to provide 9 no. new dwellings comprising: 1 no. four bed, 3 no. three bed, 2 no. two bed and 3 no. one bed dwellings, with associated car parking - Permitted 1st December 2008.

08/02244/LIS: Conversion and demolition of existing buildings and new build to provide 9 no. new dwellings comprising: 1 no. four bed, 3 no. three bed, 2 no. two bed and 3 no. one bed dwellings, with associated car parking - Permitted 1st December 2008.

08/02245/LBC: Conversion and demolition of existing buildings and new build to provide 9 no. new dwellings comprising: 1 no. four bed, 3 no. three bed, 2 no. two bed and 3 no. one bed dwellings, with associated car parking - Permitted 1st December 2008.

10/03241/FUL: Demolition of existing building and replacement with 2 no. two bedroom semi-detached dwellings - Pending consideration.

10/03242/LIS: Demolition of outbuilding and replacement with 2 no. two bedroom semi-detached dwellings - Pending consideration.

Consultations

Historic Environment Team:

This is a re-application to extend recent previous consents for re-development of the site. The application drawings appear to be identical to those previously approved, and the following comments are identical to those sent in response to the previous applications, with the exception that the reference to HE.16 has been omitted and PPG15 has been substituted for the more recent PPS5. Given the advanced state of decay and the non-original condition of much of the curtilage listed structures, the proposals for conversion and partial demolition are acceptable. The demolition of the modern structures on the site would enhance the setting of the listed buildings that surround them. The new buildings will be largely concealed from public view. They are of appropriate layout and design, so that they will not harm the character and appearance of the conservation area or the settings of nearby listed buildings.

Representations

New Alresford Town Council: Supports the application.

Relevant Planning Policy

South East Plan 2009:
BE6
Winchester District Local Plan Review
HE5, HE14
National Planning Policy Guidance/Statements:
PPS5 Planning and the Historic Environment

Planning Considerations

Principle of development

This is an application to extend the implementation time for an approved scheme. The principle of the development has already been established by the grant of planning permission 08/02245/LBC (above) and there are no material changes in planning policy to warrant refusing this scheme.

This is a re-application to extend recent previous consents for re-development of the site. The application drawings appear to be identical to those previously approved, and the comments provided by the Historic Environment Team are identical to those sent in response to the previous applications, with the exception that the reference to HE.16 has been omitted and PPG15 has been substituted for the more recent PPS5.

Stiles Yard comprises backland at the rear of West Street and Broad Street, within the New Alresford Conservation Area. Only a small part of the site can be glimpsed from the public domain in West Street, via the existing access lane. The site is surrounded by terraced buildings on all sides, most of which are listed.

<u>Conversions.</u> All of the long, narrow storage buildings are vacant and are to be retained and converted. As some of these buildings are attached to the rear of listed buildings, (Nos. 11 and 13, Broad Street), or are within their curtilage, they are deemed to be curtilage listed, though they are not mentioned on the listing descriptions. As they are currently in very poor condition, they will require significant investment to restore them and they currently have no economic use. They are on the Council's Buildings at Risk Register, and the proposal to retain, convert and store them is welcome, in principle.

The application is accompanied by an extensive structural survey by a structural engineer who specializes in old and fragile structures such as these. Considered in combination with the architect's plans and sections, the report is specific enough to reassure the Council that as much of the fabric as is practicable will be either retained or replaced to match, and that the character of the listed buildings will not be unduly harmed.

<u>Demolitions.</u> Parts of the retained listed buildings are clearly very fragile and in extremely poor condition, and are fundamentally unsound. These parts would be completely incapable of use without reconstruction, and therefore there is no objection to the degree of demolition and reconstruction shown on the proposals. The removal of the modern shed and flat roofed concrete block building is welcomed, because these are of no architectural or historic merit, and demolition would enhance the setting of the nearby listed buildings.

New buildings. New low-rise dwellings would occupy the rectangular, open, grassed area on the west side of the site. From the evidence provided by historic maps and archaeological evidence, this land does not appear to have been previously developed with buildings. However, backland development, accessed by narrow alleys, is clearly established as a traditional feature in this particular part of New Alresford. The new dwellings and plots would appear to respect the traditional long, narrow burgage plots that are an important feature of the town. They will potentially be seen only in glimpses from the public domain, from West Street. Their design is low-rise and unobtrusive and respects the context, with traditional steeply pitched roofs, glazing of traditional proportions and walls clad with traditional materials. Subject to the selection of appropriate materials, it is considered that they will not harm the settings of nearby listed buildings or the character of the conservation area.

The demolition of the modern structures on the site would enhance the setting of the listed buildings that surround them. The new buildings will be largely concealed from public view. They are of appropriate layout and design, so that they will not harm the character and appearance of the conservation area or the settings of nearby listed buildings.

Recommendation

Application Permitted, subject to the following conditions:

Conditions

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with the provisions of Section 91 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

2. Demolition shall not take place until both a contract for the carrying out of the works of redevelopment has been made and planning permission for those works has been granted.

Reason: To avoid an 'ugly gap' in the conservation area and accord with PPS5.

Informatives

1. This permission is granted for the following reason:

The development is in accordance with the policies and proposals of the Development Plans set out below, and other material considerations do not have sufficient weight to justify a refusal of the application. In accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, planning permission should therefore be granted.

2. The Local Planning Authority has taken account of the following Development Plan policies and proposals:

South East Plan BE6

Winchester District Local Plan Review 2006 HE5, HE14