

Delegated Report

Lawful Development Certificate (Proposed)

Planning Application No: 20250220

Location: 50 Whitehill Road Gravesend Kent DA12 5PG

Description: Application for a Proposed Lawful Development Certificate; single storey rear extension and loft conversion with rear/side dormer. Change of use from C3 dwellinghouse to C4 HMO.

Applicant: CJ Rentals Ltd

Site Visit Date: Desktop Assessment

Submitted Documents/Plans

Application Form
999-LP – Location Plan
999A-SP – Existing Site Plan
999B-SP – Proposed Site Plan
000-EP – Existing Floor Plans
002-GA – Proposed Floor Plans
020A-EE – Existing Elevations
020B-EE Rev A – Proposed Elevations
020C-EE – Proposed Dormer

Superseded Plans:

~~020B-EE – Proposed Elevations~~

Relevant Planning History

No relevant planning history.

Material Consideration

Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended)
The Town and Country Planning act 1990 (as amended); and The Use Classes Order 1987

Consultation

As confirmed in Para.008 Reference ID 17c-800-20140306 of the Government's Planning Practice Guidance, there is no statutory requirement to consult third parties on Lawful Development Certificate applications.

However, for transparency, the Kent Police Designing Out Crime Team have commented on the application, without being consulted. Their comments are as follows:

We have reviewed this application in regard to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Applicants/agents should consult us as Designing out Crime Officers (DOCO's) to address CPTED and incorporate Secured By Design (SBD) as appropriate. We use details of the site, relevant crime levels/type and intelligence information to help design out the opportunity for Crime, Fear of Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB), Nuisance and Conflict.

There is a carbon cost for crime and new developments give an opportunity to address it. Using CPTED along with attaining an SBD award using SBD guidance, policies and academic research would be evidence of the applicants' efforts to design out the opportunity for crime.

We recommend SBD guidance is utilised to address designing out crime to show a clear audit trail for Designing Out Crime, Crime Prevention and Community Safety and to meet our Local Authority statutory duties under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The points below identify my recommendations for the layout and design of this scheme.

1. Perimeter, boundary and divisional treatments must be a minimum of 1.8m high. Any alleyways must have secure side gates, which are lockable from both sides, located flush to the front building line.
2. We advise against the use of parking courts as they can create an opportunity for crime. Where unavoidable, the areas must be covered by natural surveillance from an "active" window e.g. lounge or kitchen and sufficient lighting – the same recommendations apply to on plot parking bays. In addition, we request appropriate signage for visitor bays to avoid conflict and misuse.
3. New trees should help protect and enhance security without reducing the opportunity for surveillance or the effectiveness of lighting. Tall slender trees with a crown of above 2m rather than low crowned species are more suitable than "round shaped" trees with a low crown. New trees should not be planted within parking areas or too close to street lighting. Any hedges should be no higher than 1m, so that they do not obscure vulnerable areas.
4. Lighting. Please note, whilst we are not qualified lighting engineers, any lighting plan should be approved by a professional lighting engineer (e.g. a Member of the ILP), particularly where a lighting condition is imposed, to help avoid conflict and light pollution. Bollard lighting should be avoided, SBD Homes 2019 states:
"18.3 Bollard lighting is purely for wayfinding and can be easily obscured. It does not project sufficient light at the right height making it difficult to recognise facial features and as a result causes an increase in the fear of crime. It should be avoided."
Lighting of all roads including main, side roads, cul de sacs and car parking areas should be to BS5489-1:2020 in accordance with SBD and the British Parking Association (BPA) Park Mark Safer Parking Scheme specifications and standards.
5. All external doorsets (a doorset is the door, fabrication, hinges, frame, installation and locks) including folding, sliding or patio doors to meet PAS 24: 2022 UKAS certified standard, STS 201 or LPS 2081 Security Rating B+. Please Note, PAS 24: 2012 tested for ADQ (Building Regs) has been superseded and is not suitable for this development.
6. Windows on the ground floor or potentially vulnerable e.g. from flat roofs or balconies to meet PAS 24: 2022 UKAS certified standard, STS 204 Issue 6:2016, LPS 1175 Issue 8:2018 Security Rating 1/A1, STS 202 Issue 7:2016 Burglary Rating 1 or LPS 2081 Issue 1.1:2016 Security Rating A. Glazing to be laminated. Toughened glass alone is not suitable for security purposes.
7. Bedroom windows on the ground floor require a defensive treatment to deflect loitering, especially second bedrooms often used by children.
8. We recommend "A GUIDE FOR SELECTING FLAT ENTRANCE DOORSETS 2019" for buildings featuring multiple units, any covered access must deflect loitering that can stop residents and their visitors from using it without fearing crime. Entrance doors must be lit and designed to provide no hiding place.
9. For the main communal doors audio/visual door entry systems are required. We strongly advise against trade buttons and timed-release mechanisms, as they permit unlawful access and have previously resulted in issues with Crime and ASB.
10. Cycle and Bin Stores must be well lit and lockable, with controlled access for the residents within the flats.

11. Mail delivery to meet SBD TS009 are strongly recommended for buildings with multiple occupants along with a freestanding post box of SBD/Sold Secure approved Gold standard. If mail is to be delivered within the lobby, there must be an access controlled door leading from the lobby to the apartments/ stairs on the ground floor to prevent access to all areas.
12. CCTV is advised for all communal entry points and to cover the mail delivery area.

If approved, site security is required for the construction phase. There is a duty for the principle contractor "to take reasonable steps to prevent access by unauthorised persons to the construction site" under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. The site security should incorporate plant, machinery, supplies, tools and other vehicles and be site specific to geography and site requirements.

We welcome a discussion with the applicant/agent about site specific designing out crime. If the points above are not addressed, they can affect the development and local policing.

This information is provided by Kent Police DOCO's and refers to situational crime prevention. This advice focuses on CPTED and Community Safety with regard to this specific planning application.

Neighbour comment

It is noted that an objection was received from 1 neighbour.

Summary of objection:

- Potential increase in traffic noise and nuisances along with other environmental impacts
- Overlooking of neighbour's gardens resulting in lack of privacy

Whilst the comments have been received, as above comments received for this application type cannot be considered as part of the assessment.

Officer's Analysis

Permitted Developments Rights Restrictions

Article 2 (3) Land (National Landscape, Conservation Area)	N
Article 4 Direction	N
Permitted Development Rights Removed/Restricted	N

Use as a HMO

The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987, assigns use classes to various uses. In the case of small HMO's the legislation designates this as use Class C4 with the description of; 'Small shared houses occupied by between three and six unrelated individuals, as their only or main residence, who share basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom.'. Class L, Part 3, Schedule 2 of the GPDO, allows for conversion from C3 (dwellinghouses) to C4 (Houses in Multiple Occupation), without requiring planning permission, where certain criteria are met.

The submitted plans show the property as altered would have 6 bedrooms; spread across 3 floors. Although they appear to contain double beds in the plans, the agent has provided written confirmation that the HMO would serve 6 occupants. The proposed small HMO falls within the above limits set out in Schedule 2, Part 3, Class L of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) and would comply with the definition of C4 (Houses in Multiple Occupation), as set out within The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987.

Single Storey rear extension

Class A - The enlargement, improvement or other alteration of a dwellinghouse

A.1	Development is not permitted by Class A if –	Y/N
(a)	permission to use the dwellinghouse as a dwellinghouse has been granted only by virtue of Class G, M, MA, N, P, PA or Q of Part 3 of this Schedule (changes of use)	N
(b)	as a result of the works, the total area of ground covered by buildings within the curtilage of the dwellinghouse (other than the original dwellinghouse) would exceed 50% of the total area of the curtilage (excluding the ground area of the original dwellinghouse)	N
(c)	the height of the part of the dwellinghouse enlarged, improved or altered would exceed the height of the highest part of the roof of the existing dwellinghouse	N
(d)	the height of the eaves of the part of the dwellinghouse enlarged, improved or altered would exceed the height of the eaves of the existing dwellinghouse	N
(e)	the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would extend beyond a wall which – (i) forms the principal elevation of the original dwellinghouse; or (ii) fronts a highway and forms a side elevation of the original dwellinghouse	N
(f)	subject to paragraph (g), the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would have a single storey and - (i) extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse by more than 4 metres in the case of a detached dwellinghouse, or 3 metres in the case of any other dwellinghouse, or (ii) exceed 4 metres in height	N 3m deep 3.3m high
(g)	for a dwellinghouse not on article 2(3) land nor on a site of special scientific interest, the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would have a single storey and - (i) extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse by more than 8 metres in the case of a detached dwellinghouse, or 6 metres in the case of any other dwellinghouse, or (ii) exceed 4 metres in height;	N/A
(h)	the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would have more than a single storey and – (i) extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse by more than 3 metres, or (ii) be within 7 metres of any boundary of the curtilage of the dwellinghouse being enlarged which is opposite the rear wall of that dwellinghouse;	N/A
(i)	the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would be within 2 metres of the boundary of the curtilage of the dwellinghouse, and the height of the eaves of the enlarged part would exceed 3 metres	N 3m high and located on the boundary
(j)	the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would extend beyond a wall forming a side elevation of the original dwellinghouse, and would – (i) exceed 4 metres in height, (ii) have more than a single storey, or (iii) have a width greater than half the width of the original dwellinghouse	N/A
(ja)	any total enlargement (being the enlarged part together with any existing	N/A

	enlargement of the original dwellinghouse to which it will be joined) exceeds or would exceed the limits set out in sub-paragraphs (e) to (j);	
(k)	it would consist of or include – (i) the construction or provision of a verandah, balcony or raised platform, (ii) the installation, alteration or replacement of a microwave antenna, (iii) the installation, alteration or replacement of a chimney, flue or soil and vent pipe, or (iv) an alteration to any part of the roof of the dwellinghouse; or	N/A
(l)	the dwellinghouse is built under Part 20 of this Schedule (construction of new dwellinghouses)	N
A.2	In the case of a dwellinghouse on article 2(3) land, development is not permitted by Class A if –	Y/N
(a)	it would consist of or include the cladding of any part of the exterior of the dwellinghouse with stone, artificial stone, pebble dash, render, timber, plastic or tiles;	N/A
(b)	the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would extend beyond a wall forming a side elevation of the original dwellinghouse; or	N/A
(c)	the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse would have more than a single storey and extend beyond the rear wall of the original dwellinghouse.	N/A
(d)	any total enlargement (being the enlarged part together with any existing enlargement of the original dwellinghouse to which it will be joined) exceeds or would exceed the limits set out in sub-paragraphs (b) and (c).	N/A
A.3	Development is permitted by Class A subject to the following conditions –	Y/N
(a)	the materials used in any exterior work (other than materials used in the construction of a conservatory) must be of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the exterior of the existing dwellinghouse;	Y Confirmed by email
(b)	any upper-floor window located in a wall or roof slope forming a side elevation of the dwellinghouse must be – (i) obscure-glazed, and (ii) non-opening unless the parts of the window which can be opened are more than 1.7 metres above the floor of the room in which the window is installed; and	N
(c)	where the enlarged part of the dwellinghouse has more than a single storey, or forms an upper storey on an existing enlargement of the original dwellinghouse, the roof pitch of the enlarged part must, so far as practicable, be the same as the roof pitch of the original dwellinghouse.	N

Creation of dormer extensions

Class B - The enlargement of a dwellinghouse consisting of an addition or alteration to its roof.

B.1	Development is not permitted by Class B if –	Y/N
(a)	Permission to use the dwellinghouse as a dwellinghouse has been granted only by virtue of Class G, M, MA, N, P, PA or Q of Part 3 of this Schedule (changes of use);	N
(b)	Any part of the dwellinghouse would, as a result of the works, exceed the height of the highest part of the existing roof;	N
(c)	Any part of the dwellinghouse would, as a result of the works, extend, beyond the plane of any existing roof slope which forms the principal elevation of the dwellinghouse and fronts a highway;	N
(d)	The cubic content of the resulting roof space would exceed the cubic content of the original roof space by more than – (i) 40 cubic metres in the case of a terrace house, or (ii) 50 cubic metres in any other case;	N Total calculated volume = 39.58m²
(e)	It would consist of or include – the construction or provision of a verandah, balcony or raised platform or the installation, alteration or replacement of a chimney, flue or soil and vent pipe; or	N
(f)	The dwellinghouse is on article 2 (3) land	N
(g)	The dwellinghouse is built under Part 20 of this Schedule (construction of new dwellinghouses)	N
(h)	The existing dwellinghouse has been enlarged in reliance on the permission granted by Class AA (enlargement of a dwellinghouse by construction of additional storeys).	N
B.2	Development is permitted by Class B subject to the following conditions –	Y/N
(a)	The materials used in any exterior work must be of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the exterior of the existing dwellinghouse;	Y Confirmed by email
(b)	The enlargement must be constructed so that – (i) other than in the case of a hip-to-gable enlargement or an enlargement which joins the original roof to the roof of a rear or side – extension (aa) the eaves of the original roof are maintained or reinstated; and (bb) the edge of the enlargement closest to the eaves of the original roof is, so far as practicable, not less than 0.2 metres from the eaves, measured along the roof slope from the outside edge of the eaves; and (ii) other than in the case of an enlargement which joins the original	Y

	roof to the roof of a rear or side extension, no part of the enlargement extends beyond the outside face of any external wall of the original dwelling house; and	
(c)	Any window inserted on a wall or roof slope forming a side elevation of the dwellinghouse must be – (i) obscure-glazed, and (ii) non-opening unless the parts of the window which can be opened are more than 1.7 metres above the floor of the room in which the window is installed.	N/A

Conclusion

The submitted plans show the property as altered would have 6 bedrooms; spread across 3 floors. Although they appear to contain double beds in the plans, the agent has provided written confirmation that the HMO would serve 6 occupants. The proposed small HMO falls within the above limits set out in Schedule 2, Part 3, Class L of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) and would comply with the definition of C4 (Houses in Multiple Occupation), as set out within The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987.

The proposed development in terms of the rear extension and roof additions also complies with Schedule 2, Part 1, Classes A and B of THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015, AS AMENDED.

Recommendation

The recommendation is to Grant the Lawful Development Certificate.

(For detailed conditions and informatives, see draft Decision)

Case Officer:	Mrs Lisa Fisher	Team Leader:	Mrs Faye Walsh
Signed:		Signed:	
Dated:	30th April 2025	Dated:	02 May 2025