

DELEGATED DECISION OFFICER REPORT

AUTHORISATION	INITIALS	DATE
File completed and officer recommendation:	CC	24/02/2020
Planning Development Manager authorisation:	TF	06/03/2020
Admin checks / despatch completed	SB	09/03/2020
Technician Final Checks/ Scanned / LC Notified / UU Emails:	AP	9/3/2020

Application: 20/00020/FUL **Town / Parish:** Weeley Parish Council

Applicant: Mr Nagarajah

Address: Weeley Post Office 53 The Street Weeley

Development: Proposed external staircase, side entrance door on first floor and side door on ground floor.

1. Town / Parish Council

Weeley Parish Council No objection

2. Consultation Responses

N/A

3. Planning History

93/00868/FUL	Conservatory	Approved	26.08.1993
03/00153/FUL	Front extension to shop and new dormers to roof	Approved	13.03.2003
13/00636/FUL	The retention of an Automated Teller Machine.	Approved	11.07.2013
13/00637/ADV	Installation of 2 No. fascia signs.	Approved	11.07.2013
20/00020/FUL	Proposed external staircase, side entrance door on first floor and side door on ground floor.	Current	

4. Relevant Policies / Government Guidance

NPPF National Planning Policy Framework February 2019

National Planning Practice Guidance

Tendring District Local Plan 2007

QL9 Design of New Development

QL10 Designing New Development to Meet Functional Needs

QL11 Environmental Impacts and Compatibility of Uses

Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Publication Draft (June 2017)

SP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

SPL3 Sustainable Design

Status of the Local Plan

The 'development plan' for Tendring is the 2007 'adopted' Local Plan. Paragraph 213 of the NPPF (2019) allows local planning authorities to give due weight to adopted albeit outdated policies according to their degree of consistency with the policies in the NPPF. Paragraph 48 of the NPPF also allows weight to be given to policies in emerging plans according to their stage of preparation, the extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies and the degree of consistency with national policy. As of 16th June 2017, the emerging Local Plan for Tendring is the Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Publication Draft.

Section 1 of the Local Plan (which sets out the strategy for growth across North Essex including Tendring, Colchester and Braintree) was examined in January and May 2018 and the Inspector's initial findings were published in June 2018. They raise concerns, very specifically, about the three 'Garden Communities' proposed in north Essex along the A120 designed to deliver longer-term sustainable growth in the latter half of the plan period and beyond 2033. Further work is required to address the Inspector's concerns and the North Essex Authorities are considering how best to proceed.

With more work required to demonstrate the soundness of the Local Plan, its policies cannot yet carry the full weight of adopted policy, however they can carry some weight in the determination of planning applications. The examination of Section 2 of the Local Plan will progress once matters in relation to Section 1 have been resolved. Where emerging policies are particularly relevant to a planning application and can be given some weight in line with the principles set out in paragraph 48 of the NPPF, they will be considered and, where appropriate, referred to in decision notices. In general terms however, more weight will be given to policies in the NPPF and the adopted Local Plan.

5. Officer Appraisal (including Site Description and Proposal)

Proposal

This application seeks permission for the erection of an external staircase, side entrance door on first floor and side door on ground floor.

Application site

The site is located to the east of 'The Street', within the development boundary for Weeley. The site serves the 'Weeley Convenience Store' a Post Office and convenience store with residential flat above. The site is a detached two-storey building, constructed from brickwork and cladding with a pitched tiled roof and two roof dormers located to the front of the building. The front of the site is a paved area with ramped access to the front of the building.

Assessment

Design and appearance

One of the core planning principles of The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as stated at paragraph 130 is to always seek to secure high quality design. Saved Policies QL9, QL10 and QL11 aim to ensure that all new development makes a positive contribution to the quality of the local environment, relates well to its site and surroundings particularly in relation to its form and design and does not have a materially damaging impact on the amenities of occupiers of nearby properties. Emerging Policy SP1 reflects these considerations.

The proposed external staircase and doors will be located to the north of the building, the staircase and first floor door will be visible from the streetscene, however they will be located back from the highway and are not thought to cause any significant impact upon the street scene. The staircase will be constructed from galvanised steel and will extend approximately 0.8m from the building. The doors will be white UPVC. The proposal is necessary to allow access to the residential flat above the store as it is proposed for the internal arrangements of the store to be changed, including the demolition of the existing internal staircase. The proposal is deemed to be of a functional design suitable to the existing building, it will not cause any significant impact to the visual amenities of the area.

Impact to Neighbouring Amenities

The NPPF, Paragraph 17, states that planning should always seek to secure a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings. In addition, Policy QL11 of the saved plan states that amongst criteria 'development will only be permitted if the development will not have a materially damaging impact on the privacy, daylight or other amenities of occupiers of nearby properties'. These sentiments are carried forward in Policy SPL3 of the Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Publication Draft (June 2017).

The proposal will be situated to the north of the building. There is a private road/driveway located to the north of the site, separating the application site from the neighbouring dwellings to the north (numbers 47 and 49). The proposal will also be largely shielded from these neighbouring properties by existing shrubbery along the boundary line. The proposal is thought to have no significant impact on the privacy, daylight or the amenities of the adjacent neighbours.

Highway issues

The proposal neither generates an additional need for parking nor decreases the existing parking provision at the site.

Other considerations

Weeley Parish Council have no objections to this application

No other letters of representation have been received.

Conclusion

It is considered that the proposed development is consistent with the National and Local Plan Policies identified above. In the absence of material harm resulting from the proposal the application is recommended for approval.

6. Recommendation

Approval - Full

7. Conditions / Reasons for Refusal

- 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 requirements of Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 2 The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the following approved plan; Drawing No. 01 Revision A.

Reason - For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

8. Informatives

Positive and Proactive Statement

The Local Planning Authority has acted positively and proactively in determining this application by assessing the proposal against all material considerations, including planning policies and any representations that may have been received and subsequently determining to grant planning permission in accordance with the presumption in favour of sustainable development, as set out within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Are there any letters to be sent to applicant / agent with the decision? If so please specify:	YES	NO
Are there any third parties to be informed of the decision? If so, please specify:	YES	NO