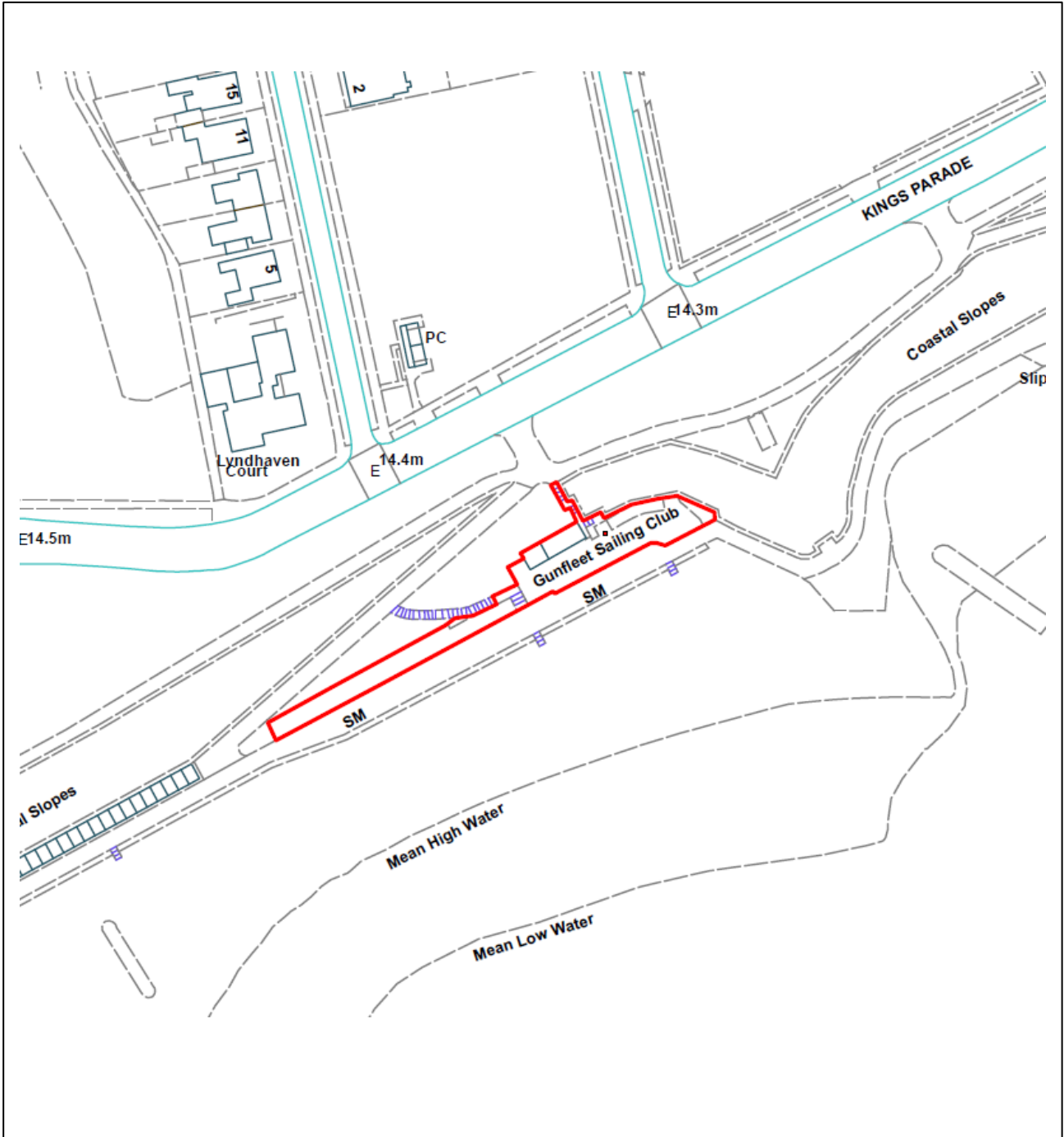


PLANNING COMMITTEE

4th March 2025

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

A.3. PLANNING APPLICATION – 24/01643/FUL – GUNFLEET SAILING CLUB MARINE PARADE EAST CLACTON ON SEA



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Application:	24/01643/FUL	Expiry Date:	21st January 2025
Case Officer:	Naomi Hart	EOT Date:	05th February 2025
Town/ Parish:	Clacton Non Parished		
Applicant:	Mr Richard Walker (Commodore) - Gunfleet Sailing Club Ltd.		
Address:	Gunfleet Sailing Club, Marine Parade East, Clacton On Sea		
Development:	Planning Application - Extension to the clubhouse to accommodate entrance lobby and enclosed race officer box for starting and managing dinghy races.		

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This application is before Members as Tendring District Council is the landowner.
- 1.2 The application seeks full planning permission for a small extension to the sailing club clubhouse to accommodate an entrance lobby and race officer box.
- 1.3 The site is located within the settlement development boundary, within Clacton Greensward Safeguarded Open Space and within Flood zone 2.
- 1.4 The proposal is not considered to cause any material harm to visual or residential amenity, highway safety, biodiversity, or flood risk and the application is recommended for approval.

Recommendation: Approval

- 1) That the Head of Planning and Building Control be authorised to grant planning permission subject to the conditions as stated at paragraph 10.2, or varied as is necessary to ensure the wording is enforceable, precise, and reasonable in all other respects, including appropriate updates, so long as the principle of the conditions as referenced is retained; and,
- 2) The informative notes as may be deemed necessary.

2. Status of the Local Plan

Planning law requires that decisions on applications must be taken in accordance with the development plan unless there are material considerations that indicate otherwise (Section 70(2) of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act and Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). This is set out in Paragraph 2 of the National Planning Policy Framework (the Framework). The 'development plan' for Tendring comprises, in part, Sections 1 and 2 of the Tendring District Local Plan 2013-33 and Beyond (adopted January 2021 and January 2022, respectively), supported by our suite of evidence base core documents (<https://www.tendringdc.uk/content/evidence-base>) together with any Neighbourhood Plans that have been made and the Minerals and Waste Local Plans adopted by Essex County Council.

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3. **Neighbourhood Plans**

A neighbourhood plan introduced by the Localism Act that can be prepared by the local community and gives communities the power to develop a shared vision for their area. Neighbourhood plans can shape, direct and help to deliver sustainable development, by influencing local planning decisions as part of the statutory development plan to promote development and uphold the strategic policies as part of the Development Plan alongside the Local Plan. Relevant policies are considered in the assessment. Further information on our Neighbourhood Plans and their progress can be found via our website <https://www.tendringdc.uk/content/neighbourhood-plans>

4. **Planning Policy**

4.1 The following Local and National Planning Policies are relevant to this planning application.

National:

National Planning Policy Framework December 2024 ([NPPF](#))

National Planning Practice Guidance ([NPPG](#))

Local:

Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond North Essex Authorities' Shared Strategic Section 1 (adopted January 2021)

SP1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

SP7 Place Shaping Principles

Tendring District Local Plan 2013-2033 and Beyond Section 2 (adopted January 2022)

SPL2 Settlement Development Boundaries

SPL3 Sustainable Design

HP1 Improving Health and Wellbeing

HP2 Community Facilities

HP4 Safeguarded Open Space

HP5 Open Space, Sports and Recreation Facilities

PPL1 Development and Flood Risk

CP1 Sustainable Transport and Accessibility

Local Planning Guidance

Essex County Council Car Parking Standards - Design and Good Practice

5. **Relevant Planning History**

00/00853/FUL	Replacement of existing clubhouse	Approved	13.10.2000
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6. **Consultations**

Below is a summary of the comments received from consultees relevant to this application proposal. Where amendments have been made to the application, or additional information has been submitted to address previous issues, only the latest comments are included below.

All consultation responses are available to view, in full (including all recommended conditions and informatives), on the planning file using the application reference number via the Council's Public Access system by following this link <https://idox.tendringdc.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

Environment Agency**10.01.2025**

We have inspected the application and have no objection. We have provided brief information regarding environmental permitting below.

Environmental Permitting Regulations

This application does not require a Flood Risk Activity Permit as the defence in this area is maintained under the Coastal Protection Act 1949, and therefore is not considered a 'sea defence' under the terms of The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2016, Schedule 25, Part 1, Paragraph 3 (3).

ECC Highways Dept**09.01.2025**

The information provided with the application has been assessed by the Highway Authority and conclusions reached from a desktop study based on the submitted material and google maps. No site visit was undertaken in conjunction with this planning application. The proposal is set back from the public highway, while to the south of the clubhouse is public footpath 29 (Great Clacton_167) that forms part of a coastal path. It is noted that the club need to undertake some important maintenance work to its property incorporating an extension to the building to improve and enhance its operation, considering these factors:

From a highway and transportation perspective the impact of the proposal is acceptable to Highway Authority subject to the following mitigation and conditions:

1. Prior to commencement of the development, the areas within the curtilage of the site for the purpose of loading / unloading / reception and storage of building materials shall be provided clear of the highway.
2. The public's rights and ease of passage over public footpath no.29 (Great Clacton_167) shall be maintained free and unobstructed at all times.

The above conditions are to ensure that the proposal conforms to the relevant policies contained within the Highway Authority's Development Management Policies, adopted as County Council Supplementary Guidance and National Planning Policy Framework.

Informative:

i) All work within or affecting the highway is to be laid out and constructed by prior arrangement with and to the requirements and specifications of the Highway Authority; all details must be agreed before the commencement of works.

The applicants should be advised to contact the Development Management Team by email at development.management@essexhighways.org

ii) On the completion of the Development, all roads, footways/paths, cycle ways, covers, gratings, fences, barriers, grass verges, trees, and any other street furniture within the Site and in the area, it covers, and any neighbouring areas affected by it, must be left in a fully functional repaired/renovated state to a standard accepted by the appropriate statutory authority.

iii) The Highway Authority cannot accept any liability for costs associated with a developer's improvement. This includes design check safety audits, site supervision, commuted sums for maintenance and any potential claims under Part 1 and Part 2 of the Land Compensation Act 1973. To protect the Highway Authority against such compensation claims a cash deposit or bond may be required.

Environmental Protection

23.12.2024

With reference to the above application, please see below for comments from the EP Team:

Construction Activities: In order to minimise potential nuisance caused by demolition/construction works, Environmental Protection recommend that the following hours and actions be adhered to, should the application be approved;

- No vehicle connected with the works to arrive on site before 07:30 or leave after 19:00 (except in the case of emergency). Working hours to be restricted between 08:00 and 18:00 Mondays to Saturdays (finishing at 13:00 on Saturdays) with no working of any kind permitted on Sundays or any Public/Bank Holiday whilst construction works and alterations are being carried out.

- No materials produced as a result of the site development or clearance shall be burned on site.

Adherence to the above condition will significantly reduce the likelihood of public complaint and potential enforcement action by Pollution and Environmental Control. The condition gives the best practice for Demolition and Construction sites. Failure to follow them may result in enforcement action under nuisance legislation (Environmental Protection Act 1990), or the imposition of controls on working hours (Control of Pollution Act 1974).

7. Representations

7.1 Parish / Town Council

Not applicable (Clacton – non parished)

7.2 Neighbour / Local Representations

No letters of representation have been received.

8. Assessment

Site Context

8.1 The application site relates to Gunfleet Sailing Club, Marine Parade East, Clacton on Sea which is a single storey building raised up on stilts from ground level and located within the settlement development boundary of Clacton on Sea. The application site is located within Clacton Greensward Safeguarded Open Space and is located within Flood zone 2.

Proposal

8.2 This application seeks full planning permission for an extension to the clubhouse to accommodate an entrance lobby and enclosed race officer box for starting and managing dinghy races.

8.3 Officers note that works have already commenced.

Principle of Development

8.4 The site lies within the Clacton-on-Sea Settlement Development Boundary where adopted Local Plan Policy SPL2 provides a general presumption in favour of new development. Adopted Local Plan Policy SPL3 states that all new development should make a positive contribution to the quality of the local environment by incorporating, amongst other things, measures to minimise opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.

8.5 Policy HP4 of the Local Plan 2013-2033 aims to protect open spaces as defined on the Policies Map and Local Maps. The application site is located within the Clacton Greensward Safeguarded Open Space. As the proposal is to extend and replace the existing race officer box within the existing confines of the building, it will not result in any harm to the existing use of the open space and therefore the proposal complies with Policy HP4.

8.6 The development is therefore considered acceptable in principle, subjected to the detailed consideration below.

Scale, Layout & Appearance

8.7 Policy SPL3 Part A states that all new development should protect or enhance local character and relate well to its site and surroundings particularly in relation to its siting, height, scale, massing, form, design and materials.

8.8 The proposed extension will be located to the eastern side of the sailing club building. The extension will replace the existing racebox and will measure approximately 2.9 metres in width, 1.9 metres in depth with an overall height of 3 metres. It is considered that the size of the proposal is of a scale which is in keeping with the main building.

8.9 The extension will be constructed from creosoted shiplap timber walls, goosewing grey composite roof panels, white framed UPVC double glazed windows and navy blue reinforced composite door. These materials match the materials used within the main clubhouse and are therefore considered acceptable.

8.10 Although the proposed extension will be visible from the coastal footpath, due to the use of matching materials, as well as the height of the extension being set lower than the main ridge height, the extension is not considered to result in any visual harm to the character of the surrounding area.

Highway Safety/Parking

8.11 Paragraph 115 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2024 seeks to ensure that safe and suitable access to a development site can be achieved for all users, whilst Paragraph 109 requires that streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes and contribute to making high quality places.

8.12 Adopted Policy CP1 (Sustainable Transport and Accessibility) states that planning permission will only be granted if amongst other things; access to the site is practicable and the highway network will be able to safely accommodate the additional traffic the proposal will generate, and the design and layout of the development provides safe and convenient access for people.

8.13 Gunfleet Sailing Club is set back from the highway and to the south of the clubhouse is public footpath 29 (Great Clacton_167) which forms part of the coastal path. It is considered that as the extension is to create a lobby area and race officer box largely within the existing confines of the structure, the proposal is not considered likely to cause any impact to highway safety and parking provision.

8.14 Essex Highways Authority have been consulted on this application and have no objections subject to conditions relating to storage of building materials (imposed as an informative) and not obstructing the footpath is included as a condition.

Impact on Residential Amenity

8.15 Adopted Local Plan Policy SPL3 Part C states that development will not have a materially damaging impact on the privacy, daylight or other amenities of occupiers of nearby properties.

- 8.16 The existing building is located a significant distance away from any neighbouring properties to prevent any harm to residential amenity. Environmental Protection request a condition relating to hours of operation however given the small scale of the development and the isolation from neighbouring properties it is not considered necessary to impose as a condition and this has been added as an informative.

Flood Risk

- 8.17 Policy PPL1 states that all development proposals should include appropriate measures to respond to the risk of flooding on and/or off site.
- 8.18 The application site lies within flood zone 2 and therefore the Environment Agency have been consulted. They have no objections and note that the proposal does not require a Flood Risk Activity Permit.
- 8.19 The building is raised above ground level and the extension is set at the existing floor level, there is therefore no likely impact upon flood risk to the site or surrounding area in accordance with Policy PPL1.

BNG & ECOLOGY

Habitats, Protected Species and Biodiversity Enhancement

General duty on all authorities

- 8.20 The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 amended by the Environment Act 2021 provides under Section 40 the general duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity: "For the purposes of this section "the general biodiversity objective" is the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in England through the exercise of functions in relation to England." Section 40 states authorities must consider what actions they can take to further the general biodiversity objective and determine policies and specific objectives to achieve this goal. The actions mentioned include conserving, restoring, or enhancing populations of particular species and habitats. In conclusion for decision making, it is considered that the Local Planning Authority must be satisfied that the development would conserve and enhance.
- 8.21 This development is subject to the general duty outlined above. An informative has been imposed strongly encouraging the applicant to improve the biodiversity of the application site through appropriate additional planting and wildlife friendly features. Therefore, the development on balance, with consideration of the impact of the development and baseline situation on site, is considered likely to conserve and enhance biodiversity interests.

Biodiversity net gain

- 8.22 Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is an approach that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand. Officers have considered the requirements of Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain in this context of this development and site against the relevant legislative requirements and statutory duties contained therein.
- 8.23 Due to the limited size and construction on the existing raised platform, the application is exempt from the requirements of biodiversity net gain.

Protected Species

8.24 In accordance with Natural England's standing advice the proposed development site and surrounding habitat have been assessed for potential impacts on protected species. It is considered that the proposal is unlikely to adversely impact upon protected species or habitats.

8.25 Conclusion: In accordance with the overarching duty outlined above, this development is considered to accord to best practice, policy, and legislation requirements in consideration of the impacts on ecology interests.

9. Conclusion

9.1 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.

10. Recommendation

10.1 The Planning Committee is recommended to grant planning permission subject to the following conditions and informatives:

10.2 Conditions and Reasons

1. COMPLIANCE: APPROVED PLANS & DOCUMENTS

CONDITION: The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the drawings/documents listed below and/or such other drawings/documents as may be approved by the Local Planning Authority in writing pursuant to other conditions of this permission or such drawings/documents as may subsequently be approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority as a non-material amendment following an application in that regard.

- Existing and Proposed Front Elevations – Received 26.11.2024
- Existing and Proposed Side Elevations – Received 26.11.2024
- Proposed Floor Plan – Received 26.11.2024

REASON: For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper phased planning of the development.

NOTE/S FOR CONDITION:

The primary role of this condition is to confirm the approved plans and documents that form the planning decision. Any document or plan not listed in this condition is not approved, unless otherwise separately referenced in other conditions that also form this decision. The second role of this condition is to allow the potential process of Non-Material Amendment if found necessary and such future applications shall be considered on their merits. Lastly, this condition also allows for a phasing plan to be submitted for consideration as a discharge of condition application should phasing be needed by the developer/s if not otherwise already approved as part of this permission. A phasing plan submission via this condition is optional and not a requirement.

Please note in the latest revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) it provides that Local Planning Authorities should seek to ensure that the quality of approved development is not materially diminished between permission and completion, as a result of changes being made to the permitted scheme (for example through changes to approved details such as the materials used). Accordingly, any future amendment of any kind will be considered in line with this paragraph, alongside the Development Plan and all other material considerations.

Any indication found on the approved plans and documents to describe the plans as approximate and/or not to be scaled and/or measurements to be checked on site or similar, will not be considered

applicable and the scale and measurements shown shall be the approved details and used as necessary for compliance purposes and/or enforcement action.

2. COMPLIANCE: PUBLIC FOOTPATH

CONDITION: The public's rights and ease of passage over public footpath no.29 (Great Clacton_167) shall be maintained free and unobstructed at all times.

REASON: To ensure the continued safe passage of the public on the definitive right of way and accessibility.

10.3 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.

Highways

- i) All work within or affecting the highway is to be laid out and constructed by prior arrangement with and to the requirements and specifications of the Highway Authority; all details must be agreed before the commencement of works.
- ii) The applicants should be advised to contact the Development Management Team by email at development.management@essexhighways.org
- iii) On the completion of the Development, all roads, footways/paths, cycle ways, covers, gratings, fences, barriers, grass verges, trees, and any other street furniture within the Site and in the area, it covers, and any neighbouring areas affected by it, must be left in a fully functional repaired/renovated state to a standard accepted by the appropriate statutory authority.
- iv) The Highway Authority cannot accept any liability for costs associated with a developer's improvement. This includes design check safety audits, site supervision, commuted sums for maintenance and any potential claims under Part 1 and Part 2 of the Land Compensation Act 1973. To protect the Highway Authority against such compensation claims a cash deposit or bond may be required.
- v) Prior to commencement of the development, the areas within the curtilage of the site for the purpose of loading / unloading / reception and storage of building materials shall be provided clear of the highway.

Biodiversity

In accordance with the Council's general duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, you are strongly encouraged to improve the biodiversity of the application site through appropriate additional planting and wildlife friendly features. Suggested enhancements could include: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/in-the-garden/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden>

Environmental Health

- No vehicle connected with the works to arrive on site before 07:30 or leave after 19:00 (except in the case of emergency). Working hours to be restricted between 08:00 and 18:00 Mondays to Saturdays (finishing at 13:00 on Saturdays) with no working of any kind permitted on Sundays or any Public/Bank Holiday whilst construction works and alterations are being carried out.
- No materials produced as a result of the site development or clearance shall be burned on site.

11. **Additional Considerations**

Equality Impact Assessment

- 11.1 In making this recommendation/decision regard must be had to the public sector equality duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (as amended). This means that the Council must have due regard to the need in discharging its functions that in summary include A) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act; B. Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic* (See Table) and those who do not; C. Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic* and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 11.2 It is vital to note that the PSED and associated legislation are a significant consideration and material planning consideration in the decision-making process. This is applicable to all planning decisions including prior approvals, outline, full, adverts, listed buildings etc. It does not impose an obligation to achieve the outcomes outlined in Section 149. Section 149 represents just one of several factors to be weighed against other pertinent considerations.
- 11.3 In the present context, it has been carefully evaluated that the recommendation articulated in this report and the consequent decision are not expected to disproportionately affect any protected characteristic* adversely. The PSED has been duly considered and given the necessary regard, as expounded below.

Protected Characteristics *	Analysis	Impact
Age	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Disability	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Gender Reassignment	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Marriage or Civil Partnership	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Pregnancy and Maternity	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Race (Including colour, nationality and ethnic or national origin)	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
Sex (gender)	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral

Religion or Belief	The proposal put forward will not likely have direct equality impacts on this target group.	Neutral
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Human Rights

- 11.4 In making your decision, you should be aware of and take into account any implications that may arise from the Human Rights Act 1998 (as amended). Under the Act, it is unlawful for a public authority such as the Tendring District Council to act in a manner that is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights.
- 11.5 You are referred specifically to Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life), Article 1 of the First Protocol (protection of property) and Article 14 (right to freedom from discrimination).
- 11.6 It is not considered that the recommendation to grant permission in this case interferes with local residents' right to respect for their private and family life, home and correspondence or freedom from discrimination except insofar as it is necessary to protect the rights and freedoms of others (in this case, the rights of the applicant). The Council is also permitted to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest and the recommendation to grant permission is considered to be a proportionate response to the submitted application based on the considerations set out in this report.

Finance Implications

- 11.7 Local finance considerations are a matter to which local planning authorities are to have regard in determining planning applications, as far as they are material to the application.

12. Declaration of Interest

- 12.1 Please refer to the minutes of this meeting, which are typically available on the councils website which will be published in due course following conclusion of this meeting.

13. Background Papers

- 13.1 In making this recommendation, officers have considered all plans, documents, reports and supporting information submitted with the application together with any amended documentation. Additional information considered relevant to the assessment of the application (as referenced within the report) also form background papers. All such information is available to view on the planning file using the application reference number via the Council's Public Access system by following this link <https://idox.tendringdc.gov.uk/online-applications/>.