PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER:P08/0173

| Type of approval sought | | Full Planning Permission |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Ward | | GORNAL |
| Applicant | | Mr & Mrs Reynolds |
| Location: | 18, MANOR DRIVE, LOWER GORNAL, DUDLEY, DY3 2XQ | |
| Proposal | TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION TO CREATE STUDY AND UTILITY WITH BEDROOM AND ENLARGED BATHROOM ABOVE. | |
| Recommendation Summary: | APPROVE SU | JBJECT TO CONDITIONS |

SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

1. The site is situated within a well established residential area. The dwelling is semidetached and occupies an elevated location with respect to the adjacent dwelling No 16 Manor Drive and to the road itself.

PROPOSAL

- 2. The application is for the construction of a two-storey side extension. The garage would be converted into a study at the front and would be extended at the rear to create a utility room. At first floor level an additional bedroom would be created and the bathroom would be extended.
- 3. At first floor level the extension would be set back by 0.75m and the ridge would be set down slightly from the existing roofline. The rear of the two-storey element would be in line with the rear wall of the existing dwelling.

HISTORY

4. None.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 5. Two letters of objection have been received from an adjacent neighbour which make the following comments:
 - The development would be right up to the boundary wall and could put load upon it.
 This is not a retaining wall. Concerns regarding the transmission of lateral loads and ground water retention. No thought has been given to the soak away and water may discharge onto the neighbouring ground;

- Loss of light and intimidating to look at;
- A window in the gable would be slightly angled towards the property and would lead to a loss of privacy. This window should be obscure glazed and fixed;
- The door in the gable would look over the adjacent property and front door leading to a loss of privacy;
- Development should not trespass onto my airspace;
- If the buildings are to be rebuilt a large area of concrete at No 18 may have to be removed via a pneumatic drill. The vibration could damage the neighbouring wall and buildings;
- The applicants will be held responsible for debris on adjacent property

OTHER CONSULTATION

6. <u>Group Engineer – (Development)</u> – no additional parking provision has been submitted with the application. The parking provision falls short of the 3No parking spaces required. This would displace vehicles onto the highway to the detriment of highway safety and the convenience of the users of the highway. Refusal is recommended.

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICY

7. The adopted Dudley Unitary Development Plan:

Policy DD1 – Urban Design

Policy DD4 - Development in Residential Areas

Policy AM14 – Parking

8. <u>Supplementary Planning Guidance</u>:

Planning Policy Guidance Note No 17: House Extension Design Guide

Planning Policy Guidance Note 12: The 45 Degree Code

Parking Standards and Travel Pans

ASSESSMENT

Key Issues

- Design and Appearance
- Impact upon the amenities of the occupants of adjacent dwellings
- Parking

Design and Appearance

9. The design of the extension would be in keeping with the existing dwelling. It would be set back 0.75m from the front wall of the dwelling and the roofline would be set down. It would therefore be visually subordinate to the existing dwelling. The house would remain gable ended and the fenestration would match the existing dwelling. As such the application would be acceptable being in accordance with Policy DD4 of the adopted Dudley Unitary Development Plan.

Impact upon the amenities of the occupants of adjacent dwellings

- 10. The application site is set at a higher level than the adjacent dwelling No 16 Manor Drive. The two-storey extension would be built both along and close to the boundary of the site. Inevitably, the extension would appear reasonably high when viewed from the parking area belonging to No 16 Manor Drive. Indeed there have been neighbour objections regarding the visual impact of the extension. The adjacent dwelling, No 16 Manor Drive however is angled away from the application site and its garage is located closest to the boundary where the extension would be constructed. It would not therefore adversely affect any habitable room windows of the adjacent dwelling nor would it unduly overshadow the dwelling. On balance, therefore it is considered that the impact of the development in terms of its size and scale on the amenities of residents of the adjacent dwelling would be insufficient to warrant refusal of the application.
- 11. The application indicates a side facing landing window in the first floor elevation. The adjacent neighbour has requested that this fixed and obscure glazed. This window would be angled towards No 16 Manor Drive and, as it would be inserted into a wall along the side boundary, it would overhang the neighbours' airspace if opened. It is considered reasonable therefore to place a condition on any approval that this window shall be fixed and obscure glazed.
- 12. The neighbour is also concerned about the insertion of a side facing door in the garage. Given the change in levels this does have the potential to overlook the adjacent front garden. However, consideration must be given to the fact that the applicant could place a door in the side elevation of the garage and change its use using permitted development rights. It would seem therefore that the best way to reduce the impact of the door is to place a condition on any approval requiring the installation of a 2.0m high boundary fence in the vicinity of the doorway to prevent overlooking.
- 13. Other matters which have been raised by the neighbour such as the impact upon the boundary wall, drainage issues, damage to the adjacent dwelling and debris caused during construction are not planning matters and therefore cannot influence the consideration of this planning application.

Parking

14. The application indicates the removal of the garage which would reduce the off-site parking available on the site to one space. The application would increase the number of bedrooms at the dwelling to four. Supplementary Planning Guidance "Parking Standards and Travel Plans" indicates a maximum parking requirement in such cases for three off-street parking spaces. This stance is endorsed by the Group Engineer, Development. However, Manor Drive is a quiet residential road and there is scope within the site frontage to provide an additional off-street parking space. This could be achieved by placing a condition upon any planning approval. It is considered therefore on this basis that the provision of two off-street parking spaces is acceptable.

CONCLUSION

15. The design of the extension is acceptable as it is visually in keeping with and subordinate to the existing dwelling. Despite being at a higher level than the adjacent dwelling No 16 Manor Drive, the houses are angled away from each other and the living accommodation of the adjacent house would be set at least 6.0m away from the new development with principle habitable room windows facing away from the development. The provision of two off-street parking spaces is considered to be acceptable within this quiet residential location. As such the application is compliant with Policies DD1, DD4 and AM14 of the adopted Dudley Unitary Development Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

16. It is recommended that the application is approved subject to the following conditions:

Reason for Approval

The design of the extension is acceptable as it is visually in keeping with and subordinate to the existing dwelling. Despite being at a higher level than the adjacent dwelling No 16 Manor Drive, the houses are angled away from each other and the living accommodation of the adjacent house would be set at least 6.0m away from the new development with principle habitable room windows facing away from the development. The provision of two off-street parking spaces is considered to be acceptable within this quiet residential location. As such the application is compliant with Policies DD1, DD4 and AM14 of the adopted Dudley Unitary Development Plan.

The decision to grant planning permission has been taken with regard to the policies and proposals in the adopted Dudley UDP (2005) and to all other relevant material considerations.

Note for Applicant

The development hereby permitted shall be built in accordance with the approved plans, numbered 1001-08 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Conditions and/or reasons:

- 1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.
- 2. The window to be installed in the first floor side elevation of the extension shall be fitted with obscure glass and be fixed, having no opening lights. This shall be maintained for the life of the development.
- 3. Notwithstanding the provisions of the General Permitted Development Order 1995, no other openings except those indicated on the approved plan shall be formed in

- the side or rear elevations of the extension unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.
- 4. Prior to the occupation of the extension a 2.0m high close boarded boundary fence shall be erected along the line indicated on the approved plan and thereafter maintained for the life of the development.
- 5. Prior to the occupation of the extension a hard standing capable of accommodating two cars shall be created to the front of the dwelling within the application site. This shall be maintained for the life of the development.
- 6. The materials used in the external elevations of the development hereby approved shall match in type, texture and colour those of the existing building unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

