

Officer Report

Case Reference: PL/2026/0520
Location: 1+3 Eclipse Close, Rochdale, OL16 2YU
Proposal: Alteration to roof to raise ridge height
Recommendation: Approve with Conditions
Officer: Rosalind Gralton

SITE

This application is a joint application and relates to no. 1 Eclipse Close and no. 3 Eclipse Close, a pair of asymmetric 1980s semi-detached properties in Rochdale.

The properties face northwest towards the highway, with the frontage of the property to Eclipse Close, which runs longitudinally. Subsequently, the front elevation of no.3 (the southernmost of the pair) is set considerably closer to the highway than no.5.

The properties backs onto no. 7 and no. 9 Eclipse Close. The northeast facing side elevation of no.1 abuts the rear curtilage of no.132 Croxton Avenue, with views of the property also available further northeast from properties on Clover View.

PROPOSAL

Planning permission is sought for alterations to the roof and roof height of 1+3 Eclipse Close.

No 1 Eclipse close will increase the ridge height by 0.8m. No 3 will also increase their ridge height to the same level, however a hip to gable conversion is also required as part of the works.

RELEVANT PLANNING AND ENFORCEMENT HISTORY

Joint applications: 21/00047/HOUS - Alterations to roof to raise ridge height, alteration to roof pitch and hip to gable extension (Resubmission of 20/01360/HOUS) - Approved subject to conditions

1 Eclipse Close only:

21/01029/HOUS - Grant subject to conditions,

21/00562/HOUS - Grant subject to conditions

RELEVANT PLANNING POLICIES

National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

Sub-Regional Guidance

Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (PfE)

JP-P1 Sustainable Places

Local Guidance

Saved Rochdale Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006:

G/D/1 Defined Urban Area

Adopted Rochdale Core Strategy (CS) 2016:

P3 Improving Design of New Development

DM1 General Development Requirements

T2 Improving Accessibility

Appendix 5 Schedule of Parking Standards

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD):

Supplementary Planning Document ‘Guidelines and Standards for Residential Development’ (2016)

PUBLICITY

Site Notice: N.A

Press Notice: N.A

Neighbour notification letters: Sent 23/07

SUMMARY OF THIRD-PARTY REPRESENTATIONS

4 comments were received objecting to the scheme. Concerns were raised regarding loss of light, overbearing impact, reduction on property value and impact on planting.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES

N/A

ASSESSMENT

Design, character and appearance

The proposal seeks to alter the roof to increase the ridge height by 0.8m. This follows a 2021 approval for an increase in ridge height of 0.6m, which was not implemented and has since expired. This application's proposed increase in roof ridge height of 0.8m, is considered acceptable, and would not result in a detrimental impact over and above that of the previously approved application. The proposed hip to gable conversion at No 3 is not considered unacceptable within the streetscene and would not cause undue harm to the visual amenity of the close. The proposed development is in keeping with the character and appearance of, and is subordinate to, the original dwelling and surrounding properties, and the wider setting.

As such it is considered that the proposed extension and alterations would be acceptable, in accordance with CS policies DM1 and P3, the SPD, PfE policy JP-P1 and the NPPF.

Residential amenity

Regard has been had to the relative positions of windows, separation distances, the orientation and height of buildings and boundary treatments. It is not considered the increase in ridge height, or the proposed hip to gable conversion, would detrimentally affect neighbours by overshadowing or overbearing. A 0.6m increase in ridge height was approved in 2021 however not carried out. It is not considered this additional 0.2m would be detrimental when considering the cumulative impact of all extensions on the property. It is considered that the proposal would not have a significant adverse impact on health or quality of life, having particular regard to residential amenity.

It is noted that all habitable rooms within the application property would continue to receive an adequate amount of natural light and that a sufficient garden space would be retained.

As such, it is considered proposed development would have an acceptable impact on the amenity of both the occupiers of the application property and the neighbouring properties, in accordance with CS policy DM1, the SPD, PfE policy JP-P1 and the NPPF.

Highways and parking

The proposed works would not affect the parking spaces on site, and would have no unacceptable impacts upon highway safety in accordance with CS Policy T2 and CS Appendix 5.

Conclusion

Subject to the conditions set out below and taking into account the provisions of the development plan and all other material planning considerations, it is recommended that planning permission be granted.

PROCEDURAL STATEMENT

Article 35 Declaration

Officers have worked with the applicant in a positive and proactive manner based on seeking solutions to problems arising in relation to dealing with the planning application. No significant problems have arisen during the consideration of this application, and the application has been determined in a timely manner, in accordance with the policies with the Development Plan.[AC1]

Human Rights and Public Sector Equality Duty

The provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 have been taken into account in the processing of the application and the preparation of this report. In particular, Article 6 (1), of the European Convention on Human Rights in relation civil rights and a fair hearing; Article 8 of the ECHR in relation to the right to respect for private and family life and Article 1 Protocol 1 of the ECHR in relation to the protection of property have all been taken into account.

In addition, the Equality Act 2010 provides protection from discrimination in respect of certain protected characteristics namely: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion, or beliefs and sex and sexual orientation. It places the Local Planning Authority under a legal duty to have due regard to the advancement of equality in the exercise of its powers including planning powers. Officers have taken this into account in the assessment of the application. In particular due regard has been afforded to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Officers are satisfied that the application material and Officers' assessment has taken into account these issues.

The application has been considered in accordance with the Rochdale Equity, Diversity and Inclusion policy – Embracing All Voices (2024-2026), which seeks to promote a culture of equity, diversity and inclusion that benefit the community as a whole.

Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

Condition(s) (3)

- 1 The development must be begun not later than three years beginning with the date of this permission.

Reason. Required to be imposed by Section 91 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

- 2 The development shall be carried out in accordance with the following drawings and documents hereby approved:

- 23/07C1659-1 - Existing Plans & Elevations
- B1659-2 Proposed Elevations & Site plan
- C1659-2 Proposed Elevations & Site plan
- B1659-1 Existing Plans & Elevations
- Application Form
- LocationPlan

Reason: For the avoidance of doubt and to ensure a satisfactory standard of development in accordance with the policies contained within the adopted Rochdale Core Strategy, the saved Rochdale Unitary Development Plan, the adopted Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 3 The development hereby approved shall be constructed and retained thereafter in materials to match the existing properties, by way of type, colour and texture of the materials.

Reason: In the interests of ensuring a satisfactory visual appearance to the development and in accordance with Policies P3 and DM1 of the adopted Rochdale Core Strategy, Policy JP-P1 of the adopted Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan, and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Approval Reason(s) (1)

- 3 The proposal complies with the development plan and would improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of the area. It therefore comprises sustainable development and the Local Planning Authority worked proactively to issue the decision without delay.