

Application No. 19/01608/HOUSE

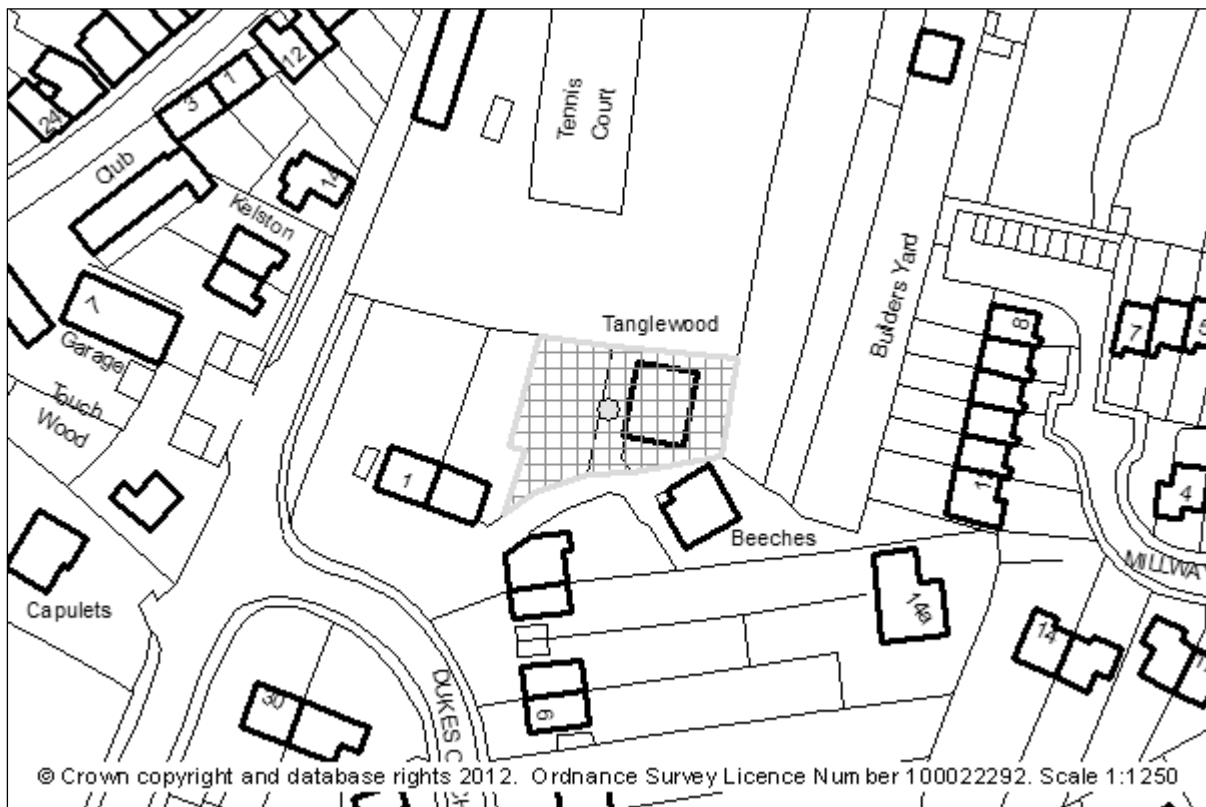
Grid Ref: 299869 : 103868

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Fullerton

Location: Tanglewood  
Dukes Orchard  
Bradninch  
Exeter

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension and separate garage/annex/workshop  
accommodation

Date Valid: 23rd September 2019



**APPLICATION NO: 19/01608/HOUSE**

## **Update**

This application was considered on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2019, where it was resolved that the application be deferred to allow a site visit to take place by the Planning Working Group to consider:

- The impact of the proposal on the neighbouring property
- The access to the site
- Any possible overlooking issues

The site visit of the Planning Working Group has now taken place with the notes taken as follows:

### **PLANNING WORKING GROUP – 9 January 2020**

#### **Application 19/01608/HOUSE – Erection of single storey extension and separate garage/annex/workshop accommodation – Tanglewood, Bradninch**

There were 7 Members of Planning Working Group present.

Also present – the agent, an objector and a representative of the Town Council.

The Chairman indicated that the Planning Working Group had been requested to visit the site to consider:

- The impact of the proposal on the neighbouring property
- The access to the site
- Any possible overlooking issues

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the site visit and introductions took place.

The Principal Planning Officer outlined the application which would include removing part of the fence and widening the parking area. He highlighted concerns that the proposal would impact on the neighbouring property and the conditions that had been proposed to mitigate these issues, with the stairs to the rear being screened and the accommodation only for ancillary use.

The group walked onto the site and considered the fence line and where the separate garage would be located, identified by props and cord, which gave a clear indication of the ridge height of the proposal. Consideration was given to the impact of the proposal on the neighbouring property; it was confirmed that there would be no windows on the first floor of the building.

The objector addressed the group, explaining her concern with regard to the height of the proposal and that it would be built too close to her fence. She felt that she would lose her privacy and would be looking at a wall and a roof from her conservatory which she felt was unfair and overbearing.

The agent stated that the building would be set into the ground to avoid any impact on the neighbouring property. The fence was not a planning matter and the construction of building was a building control matter. The application had been designed so that privacy could be maintained. He felt that there would be no overlooking nor over shadowing and little impact on the neighbouring property.

The representative from the Town Council explained that town councillors had visited the site and that the props had been very useful. The Town Council felt that the building was too high and very overbearing, there was concern about the closeness of the building to the fence. The council had been happy to support the extension but not the garage due to its height and overbearing issues.

The group then visited the neighbour's garden to consider the impact the proposal would have and asked questions with regard to light issues, screening and privacy.

Members agreed that they would voice their views regarding the application at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

## **MEMBER CALL-IN**

Called in by Cllr Luke Taylor, in order to consider the potential over-development of the site and the impact of the proposed development on the neighbouring garden and associated private amenity space.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Grant permission subject to conditions

## **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT**

Erection of single storey extension and separate garage/annex/workshop accommodation.

The proposal relates to Tanglewood, a modern bungalow located on the northern side of Dukes Orchard, located on land to the rear of 2 and 3 Dukes Orchard. Another property, Beeches, which was built at the same time, sits to the south. The proposed development includes the erection of a single storey extension to the western elevation of Tanglewood and the erection of a one and a half story garage/workshop with annexe accommodation in the roof space. The extension is proposed to be finished with render and tiles to match the existing property, in addition to a small section of standing seam metal roof to an attached lean-to section. The garage/annexe is proposed to be constructed with a mix of render, timber cladding and stone.

## **APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Existing and proposed plans

Letter responding to neighbour and Parish Council comments

## **RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY**

08/00613/FULL - PERMIT date 4th July 2008

Erection of 2 dwellings and a replacement detached garage

09/00312/FULL - PERMIT date 9th November 2009

Retention of 2 dwellings and erection of a replacement detached garage

16/01182/TPO - PERMIT date 12th September 2016

Application to fell one Conifer tree protected by Tree Preservation Order No. 08/00001/TPO

## **DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICIES**

## **Mid Devon Core Strategy (Local Plan 1)**

COR1 – Sustainable Communities

COR2 – Local Distinctiveness

COR13 - Tiverton

COR17 - Villages

## **Mid Devon Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies)**

DM1 – Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

DM2 – High Quality Design

DM8 - Parking

DM13 – Residential Extension

DM27 – Development Affecting Heritage Assets

## **CONSULTATIONS**

### **BRADNINCH TOWN COUNCIL – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

The council have visited the site, where they met with the applicant and subsequently with some of the neighbours.

The council has considered this application and has No Objection to the proposals regarding extension of the main property.

The council has also considered the proposals for a separate annex (which runs along part of the boundary with a neighbouring property) which could be over bearing, may also constitute over development of the site and could compromise the privacy of the immediate neighbours. The proposed exterior staircase to the annex would allow overlooking into neighbouring properties with a potential loss of privacy.

The council feel that these concerns require addressing.

### **HIGHWAY AUTHORITY - 27.09.19**

Standing advice applies please see Devon County Council document <https://www.devon.gov.uk/planning/apply-for-planning-permission/get-help-with-an-application/guidance-for-applicants>

## **REPRESENTATIONS**

Letters of objection were received from four local residents. The main points raised are as follows:

- The two storey garage is too high and will intrude and overlook 1, 2, 3 Dukes Orchard and The Beeches. There will be particular overlooking from the annex steps. There will be loss of light, as well as privacy.
- The accommodation above could easily be turned into a separate dwelling, leading to additional vehicle movements and increased levels of rubbish.
- The proposal will increase the vehicle movements to five properties using the same access.
- There is a hedge to the left when exiting, which obscures visibility and should be reduced to 1m in height.

- Drainage for Tanglewood and Beeches passes through another resident's drains. They object to a third house using this.
- The proposed drive is opposite existing domestic gates, potentially causing a hazard.
- There was a requirement to plant a new tree within the site to replace a felled TPO tree. This has not been planted or enforced.
- In the past restrictions imposed on the property have been ignored so there is little faith that conditions imposed will be adhered to.
- The proposed extension contains two skylights that will overlook neighbouring properties.
- The canopy over the doors could be used as a sun-terrace, causing overlooking.
- The development will result in over-development of the site.
- The garage will be against the neighbouring building which should not happen.
- Removal of the existing fence may weaken the neighbouring wall.
- There is a hedgehog run that will be affected by the development.

## **MATERIAL CONSIDERATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS**

The application is made to erect a single storey extension to the front of the property, protruding westward. It is also proposed to erect a one and a half storey garage/workshop/annexe in the south western corner of the garden. Other works included as part of the scheme include the addition of four roof lights to the main house and the removal and realignment of the existing fence and wall adjoining the access drive, to provide access to the garage.

The principle of extending the property and providing domestic outbuildings, including annexe accommodation, is considered to be acceptable, subject to assessment against relevant national and local plan policies.

Policy DM13 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Plan Policies) supports the provision of extensions to existing dwellings and other ancillary development provided that they:

- a) Respect the character, scale, setting and design of existing dwelling;
- b) Will not result in over-development of the dwelling curtilage; and
- c) Will not have a significantly adverse impact on the living conditions of occupants of neighbouring properties.

A summary assessment of the scheme against these criteria is set out below:

### a) Respect the character, scale, setting and design of existing dwelling

The proposal is split into two elements, the alterations to the main house and the provision of the outbuilding comprising garage and workshop at ground level and annexe accommodation in the roof space.

In addition to policy DM13, Policy DM2 seeks high quality design upon a number of principles including a clear understanding of the site, efficient use of the site, making a positive contribution to local character, and creating visually attractive places that are well integrated with surrounding buildings, streets and landscapes, taking account of factors including architecture, siting, layout, scale, massing, orientation, fenestration and materials.

In considering the extension to the house first, the proposal is a single storey extension that will provide additional living accommodation in the form of a kitchen and dining area. Internal rearrangement of the existing house would see the creation of an office/snug and one of the ground floor bedrooms moving. There is no net gain in bedroom numbers within the house.

The extension is considered to be an appropriate scale to respect and relate to the character and appearance of the existing house and its surroundings. The proposed materials will match existing.

The proposed garage/workshop/annexe is a larger in scale, with a height of up to 5.5m above ground level, and more prominent due to its positioning towards the southern edge of the site, where it will be more visible from views within Dukes Orchard. Notwithstanding this, it is also considered to be acceptable. Despite its height, the building would be viewed between numbers 2 and 3 Dukes Orchard, and Tanglewood to the north east. The topography of the site changes rising to the north and the north east, with Tanglewood sited on the higher ground and the aforementioned adjoining properties below. In order to limit its impact, the proposed building would be constructed on the lowest part of the site, with excavations to the rear so that it is effectively dug into the ground below the existing level of the garden to its north. In terms of design, the frontage is designed to have a simple appearance in keeping with the other development in the area, with more detail to the rear, where it will be less readily visible and is not considered to detract from the character of the area.

In addition to the consideration of general impact on the surrounding area, it is noted that the edge of the village conservation area adjoins the northern boundary of the application site. As such, the site is not within the local conservation area but does abut it. The extension adjoins this boundary, while the garage building would be approximately 16 metres from this boundary. Taking this into account, consideration will have to be given to the impact that the development will have on the significance of this heritage asset. Paragraph 192 of the NPPF advises that “in determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
- c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.”

The above requirements in respect to heritage assets are echoed in policy COR2 of the Core Strategy, which includes the requirement that “development will sustain the distinctive quality, character and diversity of Mid Devon’s environmental assets through...the preservation and enhancement of Mid Devon’s cultural and historic environment, and the protection of sites, buildings, areas and features of recognised national and local importance.” Policy DM27 of the Development Plan Policies document also states that “heritage assets and their setting which are irreplaceable resource accordingly the Council will:

- a) Apply a presumption in favour of preservation in situ in respect of the most important heritage assets
- b) Require development proposals likely to affect heritage assets and their settings, including new buildings, alterations, extensions, changes of use and demolitions, to consider their significance, character, setting and local distinctiveness, and opportunities to enhance them.
- c) Only approve proposals that would be likely to substantially harm heritage assets and their settings if substantial public benefit outweighs that harm or the requirements of the NPPF are met.
- d) Where a development proposal would lead to less than substantial harm, that harm will be weighed against any public benefit, including securing optimum viable use.

- e) Require developers to make a proportionate but sympathetic assessment of the impact on setting as set down in the guidance from Historic England.”

In assessing the impact of the development, specifically in relation to its impact on the conservation area, against the aforementioned local and national policy requirements, it has already been noted that the proposal is considered to be an appropriate form of development, satisfactorily respecting the character and appearance of its surroundings. Accordingly, the proposed development is not considered to have any harmful impact on the significance of heritage asset either.

Overall, it is considered that the proposal is acceptable and accords with policies COR1 and COR 2 of the Core Strategy and policies DM2, DM13 and DM27 of the Development Management Policies (Local Plan Part 3).

b) Will not result in over-development of the dwelling curtilage

Concerns have been raised by neighbours and the Parish Council, regarding the size of the proposed works, especially in respect to the garage building, suggesting that it will represent over-development of the site. The size and scale of the proposal has been assessed above, however in considering its position within the site, it is felt that the garden area associated with Tanglewood is of an appropriate size to accommodate the all aspects of the development comfortably. Due to the way the site was divided up when the property was built some 10 years ago, the property currently has a larger garden than many of the surrounding properties. It is considered that the resulting garden area, following any development, would still accord with the general pattern of development in the locality.

c) Will not have a significantly adverse impact on the living conditions of occupants of neighbouring properties

Amongst the objections received, there are concerns that neighbouring properties will be overlooked from the new roof lights in the extension, windows in the annexe accommodation, and from the steps accessing the annexe, to the rear of the building. There is also concern that there will be a loss of light to the properties to the west and south (2 and 3 Dukes Orchard) due to the height of the garage building.

Starting with loss of light, the extension to the house is single storey and located sufficiently distant from the site boundaries so as to raise no concerns in this respect. The garage/workshop/building is close to the western boundary of the site, adjoining 2 Dukes Orchard, however it is located to the north east of this adjoining bungalow, where the movement of the sun will be such that any overshadowing would be minimal, with the shadow being cast predominantly over the applicant's garden and property as the day passes. The building would be located at sufficient distance from the other nearby properties to avoid overshadowing. In respect to general overbearing impact, the property most likely to be affected would be the property to the west, 2 Dukes Orchard. In considering the impact, it should be noted that the building would be set away from the nearest part of 2 Dukes Orchard by approximately 5.5m. It would adjoin a small part of the boundary with the garden of this property, however due to the alignment of the fence, the majority of the building would be over 3m from the boundary fence and reasonably distant from the adjoining property. It should also be noted that the building is proposed to be constructed at the lowest ground level, to allow vehicular access from the adjoining drive, with the land behind excavated and the property dug in. This will further reduce the impact of the building. The majority of the proposed building will be level with the garden of 2 Dukes Orchard, rather than the property itself. In this respect, the adjoining garden is raised above the level of the associated house, at a similar level to the application site. Taking into account the similar levels of the two gardens, and the height of the proposed building following excavation of the site, the impact on the garden area, is

considered to be acceptable. In order to properly control the final finished floor levels, it is considered reasonable to impose a condition requiring these details to be submitted prior to commencement of works in relation to the outbuilding.

In considering the potential for overlooking, the roof lights proposed in both the extension to the main house, and the roof slope of the garage building, are positioned well above head height, and higher than the 1.7m above finished floor level, which is recognised as an appropriate level to avoid overlooking. The areas of concern would be views from the eastern gable window serving the annexe, and the stairs accessing the annexe, which could provide overlooking of the Beeches and 2 Dukes Orchard. National policy and guidance advises that planning permission should not be refused, where appropriate conditions could be imposed to mitigate the adverse effects. In this case, it is considered that the provision of obscured and non-opening windows to the east elevation window and a privacy screen to the top of the stairs could adequately prevent the identified overlooking issues, thereby preventing harm to residential amenity. Ideally, the use of obscured glazing in a bedroom/living accommodation should be avoided due to having an adverse impact on the living condition of users of that particular room, however it is noted that the annexe accommodation, includes two large roof lights, which will allow additional light and clear views that in this case will be acceptable. The provision of details of this obscure glazing and an appropriately permanent privacy screen can be required by condition prior to the accommodation at first floor level first being brought into use. In both cases, these solutions are considered to be appropriate.

One other matter raised was the prospect of flat roof elements of the proposal being used as roof terraces. This is unlikely to be a concern, as the addition of required balustrading would require planning permission, however it is considered prudent to impose a condition preventing this taking place.

Overall, it is considered that the proposed development is of an appropriate size, scale, siting and design to avoid an unacceptable level of harm to the living conditions of existing occupiers of nearby properties so as to warrant recommending refusal. The areas of identified harm are able to be appropriately mitigated through the imposition of conditions.

#### Other Issues

Other areas of objection raised relate to concerns that the outbuilding will be used as a separate dwellinghouse, the access arrangements and an increase in vehicle movements would be harmful to highway safety, and that there will be increased usage of an existing drainage connection in third party ownership.

Starting with concerns that the building would be used as a separate dwelling, it is clear that the proposal is to provide ancillary accommodation to Tanglewood only. While it may be possible to convert in the future, there are likely to be issues with the site that would prevent such a change being acceptable. Nonetheless, it is usual to impose a condition on annexe buildings requiring them to only be used as ancillary accommodation. Any future change would thereafter require planning condition to remove or vary this condition, with the application considered on its own merits at that point of time.

Similar to the above point, the proposed development provide a very small element of ancillary accommodation, which would not be accepted to increase the levels of vehicular traffic associated with Tanglewood. The parking area for the property remains in the same position, although is enlarged due to the removal and realignment of the southern boundary fence. The removal of this fence will also vastly improve visibility from the existing access, leading to an improvement over the existing situation.



The concerns relating to the existing drainage arrangements are noted, however the development is of domestic scale only, with limited expected increase in water usage. In respect to the third party ownership of the drainage system, input into this is not considered to be a planning matter on this occasion, with the applicant needing to ensure that they have the necessary rights to add to the existing system.

Finally, reference has been made to the failure to replace a tree removed under application 19/01182/TPO. The requirement to replace the removed tree is conditioned as part of this consent and it is apparent as to whether this has been done. Notwithstanding this, the requirement to plant a replacement tree has not been removed. If this has not been done, the proposed development does not remove the opportunity to do so. This is a separate matter to that being considered under this application but the applicant will be reminded of the requirement to plant a new tree.

Overall, despite the various concerns raised, it is considered that the proposal is acceptable and accords with policies COR1, COR2 and COR13 of the Core Strategy, policies DM1, DM2, DM8 and DM13 of the Development Management Policies (Local Plan Part 3), and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

## **SUMMARY**

The proposed development comprising an extension to the main house and provision of a detached outbuilding containing garage, workshop and annexe accommodation is considered to be acceptable, satisfactorily relating to the character and appearance of the existing property and its surroundings and would cause no demonstrable harm to the character, setting or appearance of the conservation area. Furthermore, there will be no unacceptable impact on neighbouring living conditions as a result of the proposed development, or adverse impact on highway safety. For these reasons it is considered appropriate to recommend approval with conditions necessary to ensure the success of the development in this location. The proposal therefore accords with Policies COR1, COR2 and COR13 of the Mid Devon Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1), Policies DM1, DM2, DM8 and DM13 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies), and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

## **CONDITIONS**

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission.
2. The development hereby permitted shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans listed in the schedule on the decision notice.
3. No work shall be carried out on in relation to the construction of any of the external surfaces of the development hereby permitted unless details of the materials, colour and finish (including the provision of samples) to be used for all external walls and roofs have been first submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development hereby permitted shall thereafter be constructed in accordance with the approved details.
4. No works shall be carried out in relation to the construction of the garage/workshop/annexe building unless details of the finished floor levels of the building have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the agreed details unless otherwise further agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

5. Provision shall be made within the site for the disposal of surface water so as to prevent its discharge beyond the application site, in accordance with details that shall have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such approved scheme shall be installed prior to any works taking place in relation to the construction of the garage/workshop/annexe building and shall permanently retained and maintained thereafter.

6. Prior to the first floor annexe accommodation within the garage/workshop/annexe building hereby approved first being brought into use, the window to be inserted into the east elevation, to serve the annexe, as indicated on the approved plans, shall be fitted with obscure glass (minimum level 3) and fixed closed, and shall be permanently retained and maintained in this fashion thereafter.

7. Notwithstanding the approved drawings, details of privacy screens to be provided at the top of the external staircase of the garage/workshop/annexe hereby permitted, including their design, size, materials and finish, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority prior to the first floor annexe accommodation first being brought into use. The privacy screens shall be fully constructed in accordance with the approved details prior to the annexe accommodation first being brought into use and shall be permanently retained as such thereafter.

8. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that Order), no part of the flat roof elements of the development hereby permitted shall be used as a roof terrace, or as any other area of domestic amenity space.

9. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification) no additional windows, including dormer windows, or other openings (including doors) shall be formed in any part of the development hereby permitted without the prior express grant of planning permission.

10. The annexe accommodation hereby approved shall not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the dwelling known as Tanglewood. There shall be no subdivision of this single residential planning unit.

## **REASONS FOR CONDITIONS**

1. In accordance with the provisions of Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. For the avoidance of doubt and in the interests of proper planning.

3. To ensure the use of materials appropriate to the development in order to safeguard the visual amenities of the area in accordance with Policies COR2 of the Mid Devon Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1), DM2, DM27 and DM13 Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

4. In the interests of residential amenity and to safeguard the visual amenities of the area, in accordance with Policy COR2 of the Mid Devon Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1), Policies DM2 and DM13 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

5. To ensure that the site is adequately drained and to prevent surface water runoff leaving the site, in accordance with Policies COR1 of the Mid Devon Core Strategy (Local Plan Part

1), DM2 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

6. In the interests of residential amenity, in accordance with Policies DM2 and DM13 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

7. In the interests of residential amenity, in accordance with Policies DM2 and DM13 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

8. In the interests of residential amenity, in accordance with Policies DM2 and DM13 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

9. In the interests of residential amenity, in accordance with Policies DM2 and DM13 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

10. In the interests of residential amenity and to safeguard the amenities of the area, in accordance with Policy COR2 of the Mid Devon Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1), Policies DM2 and DM13 of the Local Plan Part 3 (Development Management Policies) and the aims and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework.

## **INFORMATIVES**

The Human Rights Act 1998 came into force on 2nd October 2000. It requires all public authorities to act in a way which is compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. This report has been prepared in light of the Council's obligations under the Act with regard to decisions to be informed by the principles of fair balance and non-discrimination.

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a statutory duty on public authorities in the exercise of their functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities. This is called the Public Sector Equality Duty or "PSED". No persons that could be affected by the development have been identified as sharing any protected characteristic.