

Hearing held on 3 April 2007 Site visit made on 3 April 2007

by R A Sexton BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

The Planning Inspectorate 4/11 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN
© 0117 372 6372
e-mail: enquiries@planning
inspectorate.gsi.gov.uk

Date 24th April 2007

Appeal Ref: APP/Z0923/C/06/2024247

'Havana' (now known as Sydney's), 28-29 New Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7DY

- The appeal is made under section 174 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.
- The appeal is made by Mr C Corkhill against an enforcement notice issued by Copeland Borough Council.
- The Council's reference is 4/05/2764/0F1.
- The notice was issued on 28 July 2006.
- The breach of planning control as alleged in the notice is unauthorised works consisting of cladding the ground floor elevations of the building in black polished tiles.
- The requirements of the notice are remove the black polished tiles from the ground floor elevations of the building and reinstate the former painted stutco (sic) finish to match the upper floors.
- The period for compliance with the requirements is 2 months.
- The appeal is proceeding on the grounds set out in section 174(2)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended.

Summary of Decision: The appeal is dismissed and the enforcement notice upheld with a variation.

Appeal Ref: APP/Z0923/A/06/2025194

'Havana', 28-29 New Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7DY

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.
- The appeal is made by Mr C Corkhill against the decision of Copeland Borough Council.
- The application Ref 4/05/2764/0, dated 18 October 2005, was refused by notice dated 24 May 2006.
- The development proposed is alterations to entrance including new lighting and signage.

Summary of Decision: The appeal is dismissed.

Procedural Matters

1. It was agreed at the Hearing that the reference in the requirements of the enforcement notice should be to 'stucco'. The parties were content that I correct this and I am satisfied that I can exercise my power to do so without giving rise to injustice.

Section 174 Appeal - Ground (a), the Deemed Application and the Section 78 Appeal

- 2. The appeal site lies within the Whitehaven Town Centre Conservation Area.
- Accordingly, I consider the main issue to be the effect of the tiles on the character and appearance of the conservation area, both as applied to the ground floor elevations of the appeal building and as proposed.

4. The development plan for the area includes the Copeland Local Plan 2001-2016, adopted in June 2006. The key policy in this instance is ENV26, which advises that development within a conservation area, or which impacts upon the setting of a conservation area, will only be permitted where it preserves or enhances the character or appearance of the area. I shall also been guided by the advice in Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres and Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment.

Reasons

- 5. The Whitehaven Town Centre Conservation Area is mainly commercial in character and, at its core, laid out on a grid-iron pattern. The greatest proportion of buildings within the centre appear to date from the Georgian period, although there are also some fine examples of Victorian and Edwardian buildings, as well as what might now be regarded perhaps as less successful examples of redevelopment from the latter half of the twentieth century. Although there are a range of external finishes to be found in the conservation area, including brick and red sandstone, the majority of the buildings in the area are faced in painted render indeed, it is the dominant material visually.
- 6. The appeal property is a nightclub. Formerly the Havana and now know as Sydneys it is located between Lowther Street and Duke Street, at the junction of New Street with College Street. It is a substantial, 3 storey building with, perhaps, Georgian origins and which, judging from its scale and the disposition of the openings in its principal elevation, has always been used for primarily commercial purposes. Its traditional form and the use of painted render on the greater proportion of the property are characteristic of the conservation area.
- 7. However, the use of a highly reflective polished tile, applied to the ground floor of the building, appears quite incongruous and stands out in stark contrast to the form and appearance of the host property and the many other traditional buildings in the immediate and wider area. Although somewhat removed from the main shopping streets, the appeal property is plainly visible from Lowther Street and Duke Street. In these aspects the great expanse of modern cladding is nothing like anything else I saw in the conservation area. It is intrusive and totally out of character with the prevalent finish to be seen hereabouts.
- 8. There are, I accept, advantages to this scheme. The removal of the metal security plates from most of the ground floor windows is beneficial. And, in my view, the colour scheme now adopted for the building is an improvement over that which previously existed. Nonetheless, I regard these advantages as insufficient to overcome the significant harm that has otherwise been caused, or would be caused, by the development. The positive features of the scheme are more than outweighed in my view by the failure to respect the character of existing architecture by having due regard to the use of traditional materials.
- 9. I acknowledge that there are other buildings within the conservation area where inappropriate facing materials have also been employed. Some of these buildings however would have been built before the area was designated a conservation area in 1974. For example, directly across from the appeal property are the brick faced rear service areas to shopping developments which front onto King Street that I judge to be of 1960s vintage. In any event, the presence of such buildings both here and, indeed, elsewhere does not provide the necessary justification to permit a development that on its own merits harms, or would harm, the character and appearance of the conservation area.

10. I acknowledge also that one can find examples of tiles in assorted forms and colours applied variously to the pilasters, stall risers and fascias of shop fronts throughout the conservation area. The difference here, of course, is the application of such a very great expanse of tile; and, moreover, applied to a building that does not have a shop front. Furthermore, while I recognise the appellant's desire for an exterior designed in a manner to present an image of vitality and vibrancy, I do not believe that objective to be inimical to the area's status. It is simply that in this instance the design pays, and would pay, little regard to its context. As a result I consider what has been designed adversely affects the character and appearance of the Whitehaven Town Centre Conservation Area, contrary to Local Plan policy ENV26. Overall, I have decided this development is, and would be, unacceptable.

Conclusion

11. For the reasons given above and having regard to all other matters raised, I conclude that the appeals should not succeed. I shall uphold the enforcement notice and refuse to grant planning permission on the deemed application and dismiss the section 78 appeal.

FORMAL DECISIONS

Appeal Ref: APP/Z0923/C/06/2024247

12. I direct that the enforcement notice be varied by the deletion the word "stutco" from the requirement at section 5 and the substitution therefor of "stucco". Subject to this variation, I dismiss the appeal and uphold the enforcement notice. I refuse to grant planning permission on the application deemed to have been made under section 177(5) of the 1990 Act as amended.

Appeal Ref: APP/Z0923/A/06/2025194

13. I dismiss the appeal.

R A Sexton

INSPECTOR



Site visit made on 30 April 2007

by John Yellowley BSc CEng MICE FIHT

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

The Planning Inspectorate 4/11 Eagle Wing Temple Quay House 2 The Square Temple Quay Bristol BS1 6PN

≈ 0117 372 6372 email:enquiriès@pins.gsi.g ov.uk

12.00

Date: 15 May 2007

Appeal Ref: APP/Z0923/A/07/2033350 Land adjacent 9 Low Kells, Whitehaven CA28 9AX

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.
- The appeal is made by D Lowry against the decision of Copeland Borough Council.
- The application Ref 4/06/2464/0, dated 26 June 2006, was refused by notice dated 13 September 2006.
- The development proposed is the construction of a dwelling.

Decision

- 1. I allow the appeal and grant planning permission for the construction of a dwelling on land adjacent 9 Low kells, Whitehaven CA28 9AX in accordance with the terms of the application Ref 4/06/2464/0, dated 26 June 2006, and the Location Plan and plans numbered 1,2 and 3, subject to the following conditions:
 - 1) The development hereby permitted shall begin before the expiration of three years from the date of this decision.
 - 2) The building shall not be occupied until the area shown on plan No 1 for the parking and turning of vehicles has been drained and surfaced in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority, and that area shall thereafter be kept available for use by vehicles.
 - 3) The dwelling shall not be occupied until works for the disposal of foul and surface water to separate systems have been provided on the site to serve the development hereby permitted, in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Main Issues

 I consider the main issues in this case are the effect of the proposal on highway safety, the effect on the living conditions of the occupiers of 9 Low Kells with respect to amenity space and parking and, the effect on the management of the supply of land for housing.

Reasons

The effect on highway safety

3. The appeal site forms part of the side garden to 9 Low Kells, the end cottage of a 6 similar terraced cottages. To the rear of the terrace is a private access

road with a generally unbound surface which leads to a junction with South Row. Between the terrace and South Row, there is a further recently constructed detached bungalow and a number of garages, all with access from the road. Although it is not an adopted highway, street lighting is provided. Within the length of the terrace only the 2 end dwellings have space within their curtilage for parking off the road. The Council is concerned that with no direct road frontage, the access arrangements would be substandard and neighbouring residents have concerns that increased traffic could be a danger to the disabled and children.

- 4. Access to the new dwelling would be directly from the end of the road following the demolition of a garage currently available to No 9. Although, the road is narrow behind the terrace and bounded by walls each side, I consider that the access to the new dwelling would be no less satisfactory than to No 9 and would benefit from the additional space available within the appeal site for the parking of vehicles, sufficient for them to turn and leave in a forward direction. The access would be directly to the private road as is the case with all the other dwellings served by it and in my view, the fact the road is private would not justify the withholding of planning permission if the access would otherwise be satisfactory.
- 5. I have carefully considered the effect on safety for other residents leaving the curtilage of their dwellings and using the road for access. I accept that due to the lack of parking for many of the houses in the terrace that the road is relatively lightly used by vehicles. Nevertheless, the road is straight so that forward visibility is good and vehicles can be seen approaching from the access points of each dwelling. In my view, the slight increase in traffic resulting from vehicles serving one additional dwelling would be unlikely to have a significant effect on the safety of residents and I note that the Highway Authority also raised no objection. This leads me to conclude on this issue that the proposal would provide a satisfactory standard of access which would not harm highway safety.

The effect on living conditions of occupiers of 9 Low Kells

6. No 9 has a surfaced rear yard deep enough to provide adequate parking clear of the access road. Although it would be necessary to reverse out onto the road the demolition of the existing garage would increase the space available for turning which should allow vehicles to return down the road in a forward direction. The current amenity area at No 9 is significantly larger than others in the terrace and taking account of the land lost to the new dwelling, in my view, the retained area would still be large enough to provide entirely acceptable living conditions for the occupiers. There are no windows in the gable end of No 9 so no overlooking between habitable rooms and a separation of about 2.0m between walls and side boundaries would be achieved which would satisfy criterion 2 of Policy HSG 8 of the Copeland Local Plan 2001-2016 (LP) which deals with housing design standards. I therefore conclude on this issue that the proposal would not cause unacceptable harm to the living conditions of the occupiers of 9 Low Kells.

The effect on the management of the supply of land for housing

- 7. The appeal site is previously developed land, albeit on the edge of the established residential area, within the settlement development boundaries where Policy HSG 4 of the LP permits proposals for housing subject to the provisions of Table HS8 and other plan policies. The preamble to the policy indicates that allowances have been made for 'windfalls' such as this proposal but that planning permission will be refused where proposals would significantly exceed the targets for each time block in the plan period. No evidence has been put to me by the Council that this proposal would prejudice the rate of delivery for housing supply in the current time block. Although reference was made in the report by the planning officer that the appeal site is adjacent to an allocated housing site, I do not agree that simply the proximity of the 2 sites would justify withholding permission where the appeal site would otherwise be suitable. I therefore conclude that the proposal would not harm the management of the supply of land for housing and would be in accordance with Policy HSG 4 of the LP. This, together with my conclusions on the effects on highway safety and the living conditions of neighbours, leads me to allow the appeal.
- 8. Residents raised concern about the condition of the road and the further damage that might be caused during construction. Although some further deterioration may be inevitable whether development was permitted or not, the physical condition of the lane does not affect the planning merits of the new bungalow. In my view, any inconvenience to residents during construction would be short term and would not justify withholding planning permission for the new dwelling.

Conditions

9. In addition to the standard time condition I have imposed 2 further conditions. The first of these deals with the surfacing and drainage of the area for use by vehicles and combines 2 conditions proposed by the Council, modified to improve clarity and in accordance with advice in Circular 11/95. The condition is necessary to ensure highway safety and environmental management. The second condition deals with the disposal of foul and surface water. As no details are shown on the drawing, this condition is also modified from that proposed by the Council to require a scheme to be submitted for approval and to ensure it is operational before the dwelling is occupied. The condition is necessary to protect public health and achieve satisfactory environmental management. I have not imposed the condition suggested by the Council requiring surfacing of the first 10m of the private access road from the public highway. I have no evidence that the appellant controls that part of the road and I consider that the construction of one additional dwelling served by the road does not justify such an improvement on the grounds of highway safety.

John Yellowley

Inspector



Site visit made on 30 April 2007

by John Yellowley BSc CEng MICE FIHT

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

The Planning Inspectorate 4/11 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN

☎ 0117 372 6372 email:enquiries@pins.gsi.g ov.uk

Date: 4 May 2007

Appeal Ref: APP/Z0923/A/07/2034998 Keekle Grove, Whinney Hill, Cleator Moor CA25 5QS

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant planning permission.
- The appeal is made by Alfred Edward Sheil against the decision of Copeland Borough Council.
- The application Ref 4/06/2630/0, dated 5 September 2006, was refused by notice dated 11 October 2006.
- The development is the proposed conversion of a traditional barn to form a single dwelling (alterations to previous refused application 4/05/2484/0).

Decision

- 1. I allow the appeal and grant planning permission for the proposed conversion of a traditional barn to form a single dwelling at Keekle Grove, Whinney Hill, Cleator Moor CA25 5QS in accordance with the terms of the application Ref 4/06/2630/0, dated 5 September 2006 and the location plan and plans numbered Proj/KH/03/01, Proj/KH/03/02, Proj/KH/03/03, Proj/KH/03/04, Proj/KH/03/05 and Proj/KH/03/06, subject to the following conditions:
 - 1) The development hereby permitted shall begin before the expiration of three years from the date of this decision.
 - 2) The materials to be used in the roof of the dwelling hereby permitted shall be natural slate.
 - 3) The materials to be used in the window frames including roof lights and the external doors of the dwelling hereby permitted shall be of timber construction and dark stained.
 - 4) The existing sandstone walls of the barn to be converted to the dwelling hereby permitted shall be retained.
 - 5) Where alterations to openings in the external walls and the gable wall are required, the materials to be used in the construction of the external surfaces of the dwelling hereby permitted shall match those used in the existing building.
 - Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification), no external alterations (including replacement windows, roof lights and doors), or extensions shall be carried out to the dwelling hereby permitted or any building, porch, enclosure, domestic fuel container, pool or hard standing

- be constructed within the curtilage of the dwelling hereby permitted other than those expressly authorised by this permission.
- 7) The dwelling shall not be occupied until space has been laid out within the site for cars to be parked and for vehicles to turn so that they may enter and leave the site in forward gear in accordance with details submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The space shall thereafter be kept available for use by vehicles.
- 8) No development approved by this permission shall be commenced until a scheme for the disposal of foul drainage to the septic tank has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. No part of the development shall be brought into use until the septic tank has been constructed and completed in accordance with the approved scheme.

Procedural Matter

2. The application sought to overcome the Council's reasons for refusal for a previous application, reference 4/05/2484/0, to convert the barn into a single dwelling. Further information on the space for parking, the location of a septic tank and ownership boundaries distinguishes this application from the previous.

Main Issue

3. I consider the main issue is the whether the proposal would constitute a sustainable form of development having regard to its rural location and setting.

Reasons

- 4. The barn stands in close proximity to Keekle Grove, an existing detached dwelling with vehicular access via a long stone track from the community of Whinney Hill. The surroundings are mainly open pasture with the group of buildings largely screened by mature trees. The proposal would convert the barn into a 3 bedroom dwelling on 2 floors with a number of new openings in the external walls. The Council did not object to either the principle of a dwelling in this rural location or to its design and appearance. A previous reason for refusal relating to the suitability of the access track and parking provision was considered to be addressed by this application but this in itself was insufficient to overcome the Council's concern on the overall condition of the barn.
 - 5. The barn has no roof and a considerable amount of self seeded vegetation has established within it. Nevertheless, at the time of my visit the external walls, constructed of an attractive reddish sandstone, were complete and intact with no significant areas showing loss of material or distortion in line and level. One end of the barn has previously been modified to form a separate store under a mono-pitch roof for the occupiers of Keekle Grove. The internal party wall here has been modified with the addition of block work to suit the revised roof profile. The appellant concedes that this wall would need to be reconstructed and extended to form the gable end of the dwelling. However, I agree with the appellant that work on the party wall would need to be undertaken whether or not permission was granted for the dwelling. In my view, the external walls of the barn appeared to be in satisfactory condition overall and capable of conversion without substantial rebuilding.

Policy HSG 17 of the Copeland Local Plan 2001 (LP), adopted June 2006, provides a number of criteria for the conversion of a building to residential use in a rural area including one requiring the building to be structurally sound and capable of accepting conversion works without significant rebuilding, modifications or extensions. No extensions are proposed and the simple form of the building would be retained. Although a new roof would be needed, I agree with the appellant that this could be restored as part of the restitution of equestrian or agricultural use. If this were to be carried out in similar materials to the mono-pitch roof of the adjacent store then the result would be much less in keeping with the overall character of the area. In any event, considerable work to the roof would be likely to be necessary to meet current building regulations and with this proposal, a roof in keeping with the original concept is assured. I do not agree therefore with the Council that the building is in a ruinous state incapable of accepting the proposed conversion work. Providing the alterations to the external fabric of the barn are carried out sensitively in accordance with the conditions imposed, I conclude that the conversion would constitute a sustainable form of development and result in the restoration of an attractive building. It would therefore be in accordance with Policy HSG 17 of the LP and this leads me to allow the appeal.

Conditions

7. In addition to the standard time condition, I have imposed a number of conditions proposed by the Council which are necessary to safeguard the traditional character and appearance of the barn in its rural surroundings. I have added a condition to ensure that any new material required around existing or new openings or in the reconstruction of the gable wall should match the existing sandstone walls which should be retained. For the same reason, I also consider it is necessary to withdraw permitted development rights for further alterations, extensions and other work within the curtilage of the dwelling to ensure that the Council has an opportunity to consider any further proposals. As the access track is shared with other occupiers, I have imposed a condition requiring details of the space for the parking and turning of vehicles to be submitted for approval and for the space to be kept available thereafter in the interests of highway safety. Finally I have imposed the condition proposed by the Environment Agency requiring details of the disposal of foul drainage to prevent the pollution of water courses.

John Yellowley

Inspector



Site visit made on 30 April 2007

by John Yellowley BSc CEng MICE FIHT

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

The Planning Inspectorate 4/11 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN

₹ 0117 372 6372 email:enquiries@pins.gsi.g ov.uk

المراجع والمراجع المراجع

Date: 15 May 2007

Appeal Ref: APP/Z0923/A/06/2029940 Midtown Farm, Haverigg, Cumbria LA18 4NF

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 against a refusal to grant outline planning permission.
- The appeal is made by Trustees of H Willacy Est. against the decision of Copeland Borough Council.
- The application Ref 4/06/2391/0, dated 1 June 2006, was refused by notice dated 16 August 2006.
- The development proposed is the development of land for housing including the demolition of existing buildings.

Decision

1. I dismiss the appeal.

Procedural Matters

2. The application was submitted in outline with only the means of access for determination at this stage. A layout of the development was included with the application for illustration purposes which indicated 9 dwellings to be provided on the site and I have considered the appeal on that basis.

Main Issue

3. I consider the main issue in this case is the effect of the proposal on the management of the supply of land for housing.

Planning Policy

- 4. Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3): Housing sets out the national policy framework for delivering the Government's housing objectives and provides a definition of previously developed land (often referred to as brownfield land) at Annex B. The definition excludes land that is or has been occupied by agricultural or forestry buildings.
- 5. Policy DEV 4 of the Copeland Local Plan 2001–2016 (LP) sets out the sequential preference to be given to sites within development boundaries with the lowest priority being given to the use of previously undeveloped land. This policy is backed up by Policy HSG 4 of the LP which permits proposals for housing involving existing buildings and previously developed land, subject to other plan policies. Policy HSG 3 of the LP sets out the Council's approach to plan, monitor and manage the supply of land for housing to ensure an orderly supply of land in accordance with the targets set out in Table HS8. Explanatory text

to Policy HSG 3 emphasises that the windfall allowance included in the targets will only involve previously developed land and buildings. If slippage should occur in the phased delivery of sites then alternatives may be considered subject to their delivering similar forms of development in the vicinity.

Reasons

- 6. The appeal site includes a cluster of traditional agricultural buildings surrounded on 3 sides by a paddock and lies adjacent to the existing farmhouse known as Midtown Farm. The appellants contend that the buildings are redundant as the land is no longer farmed and that the site constitutes previously developed land within the normal meaning of the words. The appeal site occupies a central location within the village of Haverigg and would be within walking distance of facilities, effectively surrounded by other residential development. Nevertheless, I consider this does not provide sufficient reason to justify setting aside the national definition of previously developed land. In my view, whether or not the Council refer specifically to the national definition in the LP, I consider it is fully justified in regarding the appeal site as not previously developed land.
 - 7. The Council considers there is a strong case to indicate that a site at Concrete Square Haverigg will be developed in the near future which could deliver 83 dwellings and no evidence has been put to me either that the allocations for the 2006 to 2011 time period in Table HS8 of the LP will not be delivered or that a mixed community would not be created. Whether or not Concrete Square is the most popular of developments, there is no evidence to suggest that other higher priority sites for new houses may not be available to provide a choice of locations for people seeking new homes in Haverigg. In my view, the development of the appeal site in the manner proposed would account for a substantial proportion of the windfall allowance allocated for previously developed land and buildings in this time period and area of the borough which may delay other sites which would be sequentially preferable and prejudice the overall strategy for delivery. I conclude therefore that the proposal would cause unacceptable harm to the management of supply of land for housing which would be contrary to Policies DEV 4, HSG 3 and HSG 4 of the LP.
 - 8. Some of the buildings on the site are substantial incorporating attractive stone elevations under slate roofs. The County Council considers they are of sufficient archaeological importance to warrant a building recording programme. Whilst they may not be in use currently and some repair is necessary, Policy DEV 4 gives the highest priority to the re-use of existing buildings worthy of retention and I am not convinced that demolition at this stage would be the only option for development of the site or necessarily in the best interests of the area. It would be regrettable if the buildings became prone to vandalism, prompting complaints from local residents but this prospect does overcome my concern.
 - 9. The appellants note their responsibility to maximise the value of the site to provide funding for one the beneficiaries who is in a care facility. The advice in The Planning System: General Principles is that personal circumstances will seldom outweigh more general planning considerations and the development would remain long after the current personal circumstances cease to be

- material. I find therefore that this matter does not add greatly to my consideration of the proposal.
- 10. I agree with the appellants that it is regrettable that pre-application discussions with Council officers did not appear to identify the status of the appeal site in relation to the emerging policies in the LP and that during the period the Council were considering the application, an amended site plan was requested to deal with comments received from the Highway Authority. I also agree that the lack of availability of the agreed final text of relevant policies in the LP, formally adopted in June 2006, has caused the appellants some difficulties. Nevertheless, I am satisfied that I have the precise wording before me and that this fully supports the Council's reason for refusal and my decision which is to dismiss the appeal.

a charta dalahan

Civil und beachead

poly folice seels lasted yellst

BARRY FUNDY OF WELL OF THE

John Yellowley

Inspector