

Local Review Reference: 23/00002/RREF

Planning Application Reference: 22/00576/FUL

Development Proposal: Erection of agricultural building (retrospective)

Location: Ravelaw Farm, Duns

Applicant: Mr Robert Gaston

Scottish Borders Local Development Plan 2016

POLICY PMD2: QUALITY STANDARDS

All new development will be expected to be of high quality in accordance with sustainability principles, designed to fit with Scottish Borders townscapes and to integrate with its landscape surroundings. The standards which will apply to all development are that:

Sustainability

- a) In terms of layout, orientation, construction and energy supply, the developer has demonstrated that appropriate measures have been taken to maximise the efficient use of energy and resources, including the use of renewable energy and resources such as District Heating Schemes and the incorporation of sustainable construction techniques in accordance with supplementary planning guidance. Planning applications must demonstrate that the current carbon dioxide emissions reduction target has been met, with at least half of this target met through the use of low or zero carbon technology,
- b) it provides digital connectivity and associated infrastructure,
- c) it provides for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in the context of overall provision of Green Infrastructure where appropriate and their after-care and maintenance,
- d) it encourages minimal water usage for new developments,
- e) it provides for appropriate internal and external provision for waste storage and presentation with, in all instances, separate provision for waste and recycling and, depending on the location, separate provision for composting facilities,
- f) it incorporates appropriate hard and soft landscape works, including structural or screen planting where necessary, to help integration with its surroundings and the wider environment and to meet open space requirements. In some cases agreements will be required to ensure that landscape works are undertaken at an early stage of development and that appropriate arrangements are put in place for long term landscape/open space maintenance,
- g) it considers, where appropriate, the long term adaptability of buildings and spaces.

Placemaking & Design

- h) It creates developments with a sense of place, based on a clear understanding of the context, designed in sympathy with Scottish Borders architectural styles; this need not exclude appropriate contemporary and/or innovative design,
- i) it is of a scale, massing, height and density appropriate to its surroundings and, where an extension or alteration, appropriate to the existing building,
- j) it is finished externally in materials, the colours and textures of which complement the highest quality of architecture in the locality and, where an extension or alteration, the existing building,
- k) it is compatible with, and respects the character of the surrounding area, neighbouring uses, and neighbouring built form,
- l) it can be satisfactorily accommodated within the site,
- m) it provides appropriate boundary treatments to ensure attractive edges to the development that will help integration with its surroundings,
- n) it incorporates, where appropriate, adequate safety and security measures, in accordance with current guidance on 'designing out crime'.

Accessibility

- o) Street layouts must be designed to properly connect and integrate with existing street patterns and be able to be easily extended in the future where appropriate in order to minimise the need for turning heads and isolated footpaths,
- p) it incorporates, where required, access for those with mobility difficulties,
- q) it ensures there is no adverse impact on road safety, including but not limited to the site access,
- r) it provides for linkages with adjoining built up areas including public transport connections and provision for buses, and new paths and cycleways, linking where possible to the existing path network; Travel Plans will be encouraged to support more sustainable travel patterns,
- s) it incorporates adequate access and turning space for vehicles including those used for waste collection purposes.

Greenspace, Open Space & Biodiversity

- t) It provides meaningful open space that wherever possible, links to existing open spaces and that is in accordance with current Council standards pending preparation of an up-to-date open space strategy and local standards. In some cases a developer contribution to wider neighbourhood or settlement provision may be appropriate, supported by appropriate arrangements for maintenance,
- u) it retains physical or natural features or habitats which are important to the amenity or biodiversity of the area or makes provision for adequate mitigation or replacements.

Developers are required to provide design and access statements, design briefs and landscape plans as appropriate.

- e) the development meets all other siting, and design criteria in accordance with Policy PMD2, and
- f) the development must take account of accessibility considerations in accordance with Policy IS4.

POLICY HD3 : PROTECTION OF RESIDENTIAL AMENITY

Development that is judged to have an adverse impact on the amenity of existing or proposed residential areas will not be permitted. To protect the amenity and character of these areas, any developments will be assessed against:

- a) the principle of the development, including where relevant, any open space that would be lost; and
- b) the details of the development itself particularly in terms of:
 - (i) the scale, form and type of development in terms of its fit within a residential area,
 - (ii) the impact of the proposed development on the existing and surrounding properties particularly in terms of overlooking, loss of privacy and sunlighting provisions. These considerations apply especially in relation to garden ground or 'backland' development,
 - (iii) the generation of traffic or noise,
 - (iv) the level of visual impact.

POLICY ED7: BUSINESS, TOURISM AND LEISURE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

BUSINESS, TOURISM AND LEISURE

Proposals for business, tourism or leisure development in the countryside will be approved and rural diversification initiatives will be encouraged provided that:

- a) the development is to be used directly for agricultural, horticultural or forestry operations, or for uses which by their nature are appropriate to the rural character of the area; or

- b) the development is to be used directly for leisure, recreation or tourism appropriate to a countryside location and, where relevant, it is in accordance with the Scottish Borders Tourism Strategy and Action Plan;
- c) the development is to be used for other business or employment generating uses, provided that the Council is satisfied that there is an economic and/or operational need for the particular countryside location, and that it cannot be reasonably be accommodated within the Development Boundary of a settlement.

In addition the following criteria will also be considered:

- a) the development must respect the amenity and character of the surrounding area,
- b) the development must have no significant adverse impact on nearby uses, particularly housing,
- c) where a new building is proposed, the developer will be required to provide evidence that no appropriate existing building or brownfield site is available, and where conversion of an existing building of architectural merit is proposed, evidence that the building is capable of conversion without substantial demolition and rebuilding,
- d) the impact of the expansion or intensification of uses, where the use and scale of development are appropriate to the rural character of the area,
- e) the development meets all other siting, and design criteria in accordance with Policy PMD2, and
- f) the development must take account of accessibility considerations in accordance with Policy IS4.

Where a proposal comes forward for the creation of a new business including that of a tourism proposal, a business case that supports the proposal will be required to be submitted as part of the application process.

POLICY ED10: PROTECTION OF PRIME QUALITY AGRICULTURAL LAND AND CARBON RICH SOILS

Development, except proposals for renewable energy development, which results in the permanent loss of prime quality agricultural land or significant carbon rich soil reserves, particularly peat, will not be permitted unless:

- a) the site is otherwise allocated within this local plan
- b) the development meets an established need and no other site is available
- c) the development is small scale and directly related to a rural business.

Proposals for renewable energy development, including proposals for wind energy development, will be permitted if they accord with the objectives and requirements of policy ED9 on renewable energy development.

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