MCDONALD WILKINSON TONGE CHARTERED PLANNERS

CLIMATE CHANGE STATEMENT

Proposed Residential Development of 20 Dwellings at Greenside Road and Wellhouse Lane, Mirfield

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Report Info

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1. Introduction

1.1. This Climate Change Statement has been prepared in support of the planning application for the erection of 20 dwellings across two parcels of land at Greenside Road and Wellhouse Lane, Mirfield.

1.2. The proposed development comprises a mix of one-bedroom apartments and two-, three- and four-bedroom houses, together with associated access arrangements, parking, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements.

1.3. The purpose of this Statement is to demonstrate how the proposed development has taken account of climate change considerations through its location, design, construction and proposed approach to energy efficiency, sustainable transport, drainage and biodiversity.

1.4. Climate change is an important consideration in the planning process. New development should seek to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, make efficient use of resources and incorporate measures that improve resilience to the effects of a changing climate, including

2. Energy Reduction and Carbon Reduction

2.1. The proposed development will provide new residential accommodation designed to meet the applicable Building Regulations and associated energy efficiency requirements in force at the time of construction.

2.2. The construction of new homes provides an opportunity to incorporate modern building techniques and materials that improve energy performance and reduce operational carbon emissions.

2.3. The detailed design and construction of the dwellings will seek to promote energy efficiency through measures including:

- High-performance building fabric and insulation;
- Energy-efficient windows and external doors;
- Appropriate levels of airtightness to reduce unnecessary heat loss;
- Efficient heating and hot water systems;
- Energy-efficient lighting and electrical installations; and
- Consideration of renewable and low-carbon energy technologies, where appropriate.

2.4. The detailed specification of the buildings will be addressed through the Building Regulations and the subsequent construction process.

2.5. These measures will help to reduce energy demand, improve the efficiency of the proposed homes and contribute towards the wider objective of reducing carbon emissions from the built environment.

3. Sustainable Transport

3.1. Transport is an important consideration in reducing the carbon emissions associated with new residential development.

3.2. The proposed development incorporates pedestrian and cycle connections to integrate the two sites with the surrounding highway and pedestrian network.

3.3. In particular, the proposals include:

- New vehicular accesses from Greenside Road and Wellhouse Lane;
- A 2-metre-wide footway along the site frontages;
- A pedestrian connection from Site 1 towards the Church and burial ground;
- A pedestrian link from Site 2 connecting with the existing public right of way;
- Secure cycle parking provision for a minimum of 20 bicycles across the development; and
- Electric vehicle charging points within the curtilage of each dwelling.

3.4. These measures will encourage residents to consider alternatives to private car travel, particularly for shorter journeys, while providing the necessary infrastructure to support the increasing use of electric vehicles.

3.5. The provision of secure cycle parking and improved pedestrian connections will help promote more sustainable travel choices and contribute towards reducing transport-related emissions.

4. Flood Risk and Climate Change Adaptation

4.1. Climate change is expected to influence the frequency and intensity of rainfall events, increasing the importance of appropriately designed drainage infrastructure and effective surface water management.

4.2. Both application sites are located outside areas identified as being at risk of flooding from all sources, as set out in the supporting Planning Statement.

4.3. Notwithstanding this, the development incorporates drainage strategies designed to manage surface water appropriately and provide suitable arrangements for the disposal of foul and surface water.

4.4. Site 1 will utilise a connection to the existing culverted watercourse within Greenside Road, subject to detailed design.

4.5. Site 2 will utilise a new pumped drainage solution, with an ultimate gravity connection into the adopted sewers within Wellhouse Lane.

4.6. The drainage strategies have been developed separately to reflect the physical separation of the two parcels of land and their respective drainage circumstances.

4.7. The detailed drainage design will be progressed in accordance with the relevant requirements and standards, taking account of the need to manage surface water effectively and ensure that the development does not increase flood risk elsewhere.

4.8. The proposed approach to drainage therefore provides an appropriate response to the site's circumstances and the need to ensure that new development is resilient to changing rainfall patterns.

5. Biodiversity, Landscaping and Natural Climate Resilience

5.1. Green infrastructure, landscaping and biodiversity enhancements can make a positive contribution to climate change adaptation by supporting natural processes, providing opportunities for habitat creation and helping to moderate local environmental conditions.

5.2. The proposed development incorporates landscaping and biodiversity measures as part of the overall site layout.

5.3. In particular, an area within the northern part of Site 2 will be retained and managed as a biodiversity area, providing a green buffer between the proposed development and the nearby listed building.

5.4. The proposed layout has also been designed to avoid the removal of existing trees, with no tree removals required to facilitate the development.

5.5. Existing trees will be protected during construction through appropriate protective fencing in accordance with BS5837.

6. Sustainable Construction and Resource Efficiency

6.1. The construction of the development will provide an opportunity to minimise waste and promote the efficient use of construction materials and resources.

6.2. The construction process will be undertaken in accordance with relevant environmental legislation and good practice, with appropriate measures implemented to manage construction waste, dust, noise and other potential environmental effects.

6.3. Wherever practicable, consideration will be given to the efficient use of materials, responsible sourcing and the reduction, reuse and recycling of construction waste.

6.4. The use of durable and appropriate external materials, including the proposed predominantly stone elevations and slate tile roofs, will also contribute towards the longevity and quality of the development.

7. Conclusion

7.1. The proposed development has been designed having regard to the need to address climate change through appropriate site planning, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, drainage and biodiversity measures.

7.2. The scheme will deliver 20 new homes within an established residential area, making efficient use of land while providing improved pedestrian connections and secure cycle parking.

7.3. The provision of electric vehicle charging points to each dwelling will support the transition towards lower-emission transport, while the proposed building design and construction will be required to meet the applicable energy efficiency standards.

7.4. The development also incorporates drainage strategies appropriate to the circumstances of each site, together with tree retention, landscaping and biodiversity measures that will contribute towards climate resilience and environmental enhancement.

7.5. Overall, the proposed development has had appropriate regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation. It will provide an opportunity to deliver modern, energy-efficient homes supported by sustainable transport infrastructure and appropriate environmental measures.

7.6. Accordingly, the proposals are considered to accord with the relevant objectives of national planning policy and the applicable policies of the Kirklees Local Plan in respect of climate change, sustainable development and environmental resilience.