

**Application DM/21/0555 – Walstead House, Birchwood Grove Road,
Burgess Hill, West Sussex**
Presentation by [REDACTED] – The applicant

My husband's parents purchased Walstead House and the adjoining plot in 1970. It was their intention to live in Walstead House and to build out the second dwelling as funds permitted. Whilst this remained their intention, they did not get round to building the house and instead left the live permission with their estate.

For us it was simply easier just to apply for a fresh planning permission, although as it has turned out the proposed dwelling is consistent with the existing approval. We have gone to great lengths to ensure that the proposed dwelling respects its setting. Unlike the recent changes to Cherry Tree House, we have retained the front boundary hedge, as well as the side and rear boundary hedges. There is a large recent gap in the hedge between the plot and Cherry Tree House, however that was done by the owner of Cherry Tree House without our permission. As soon as we saw this, we advised the owner of the adjacent property that they are only allowed to trim back the hedge to our boundary line and that we want to retain our hedge.

We have had to clear the site generally, but this has been because the land has been totally neglected for many years. It was so overgrown that you could not see the boundaries and any shrubs were woody, primarily bare and covered with brambles. Irrespective of whether or not we were going to build out the plot we would have cleared the site. We have been able to retain the boundary hedges, although this has taken a lot of time and effort as they were also in a sorry state.

We have designed a dwelling that appears spacious on the plot and significantly smaller in scale than both Walstead House and Cherry Tree House. It reflects the design and appearance of both.

The size of the plot is typical of many plots in the local area, as are the gaps between the proposed dwelling and the adjacent dwellings. This is clearly demonstrated in our Design and Access Statement.

