

Application DM/21/0555 – Walstead House, Birchwood Grove Road, East Grinstead.

Presentation by [REDACTED], Architect for the scheme

Given the contemporary design of Walstead House and the approved extension at Cherry Tree House, it is both logical and entirely appropriate to adopt a contemporary approach to the design of the proposed dwelling. The proposed dwellings needs to blend in with them within the street scene.

Both Walstead House and Cherry Tree House extension have dominant front gable features and large irregular expanses of glazing. They have shallow pitched roofs of varied heights, including catslide features and typically make use of the sloping topography of the immediate area. These dwellings both have strong horizontal lines that are broken up with vertical detailing and are constructed from a range of modern materials.

The proposed dwelling picks up on these details. It has a shallow pitched split front gable giving the illusion of catslide roofs, with a vertical detail running between and below the roof-slopes. There are irregular shaped areas of glazing that pick up on those used immediately alongside at Walstead House and Cherry Tree House and the dwelling will be constructed from a contemporary palette of materials that reflect and complement the adjacent and nearby dwellings. The dwelling will sit down on the plot and is materially lower than Walstead House and predominantly lower than Cherry Tree House. It picks up on and reflects the eaves heights of both Walstead House and Cherry Tree House. Overall, it respects, reflects and is visually subservient to Walstead House and Cherry Tree House.

Good sized gaps are maintained between the proposed dwelling and the adjacent dwellings. These gaps are further enhanced by the fact that the roof of the proposed dwelling and those of Walstead House and the approved extension at Cherry tree House all hip away from their side boundaries. The topography further adds to the sense of separation between the dwellings. This is evident from the street scene drawing submitted with the application.

