Item

Report to Planning applications committee

10 May 2018

Head of planning services Report of

Application no 18/00058/F - 41 - 43 St Augustines Street, Norwich, NR3 3BY Subject

Reason

for referral

Objection

Ward:	Mancroft
Case officer	Robert Webb - robertwebb@norwich.gov.uk

Development proposal			
Demolition of existing buil ground floor level.	ding. Erection of 9 No. fl	ats with 1 No. retail unit on	
	Representations		
Object	Comment	Support	
2	1	0	

Main issues	Key considerations	
1	Principle of development	
2	Design and heritage	
3	Transport	
4	Amenity	
5	Flood risk	
Expiry date	12 April 2018	
Recommendation	Approval	



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Planning Application No 18/00058/F

Site Address 41-43 St Augustines Street

Scale 1:500







### The site and surroundings

- 1. The site includes buildings on the corner of St. Augustine's and Esdelle Street, to the north of the city centre. No.43 is a 19<sup>th</sup> Century smithy building which in the past was the main premises of Dave Barkshire Motorcycle Centre. The building is still used for storage by that company, although the main business has relocated to Rackheath Industrial Estate. On the ground floor corner of the building is a small unit that was last used as a café but is currently vacant. No. 41 also dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and was historically a dwelling but when it was last in use was used for commercial purposes. It is also currently vacant. Both buildings are locally listed. They are however in a poor state of repair and have been unsympathetically altered in the past, both internally and externally.
- 2. No. 39, immediately to the south is locally listed and currently operating as an adult shop and the buildings immediately to the east on Esdelle Street are residential dwellings. There are a range of commercial uses in the vicinity of the site, including a dentist, takeway and architectural practice.

#### **Constraints**

- 3. The site is within the city centre conservation area and the buildings on site are locally listed. There are a number of statutory listed buildings opposite the site on St. Augustine's Street, including no's 42-52 St. Augustine's Street and no. 1 Sussex Street, 4-10 Sussex Street, 27-29 St. Augustine's Street, and no.s 32, 34, 36 and 36A St. Augustine's Street and no. 2 Sussex Street. The adjoining building, no. 39 is locally listed.
- 4. The site is within a large district centre, critical drainage catchment area and a main area of archaeological interest.

## Relevant planning history

5. There is no relevant planning history held by Norwich City Council.

## The proposal

- 6. The proposal is to demolish the buildings on site and construct a new building which would contain 9 no. flats and 1 no. retail unit on the ground floor. There would be 6 no. 1 bedroom flats and 3 no. 2 bedroom flats. The building would comprise two distinct forms. Firstly a three storey flat roof building on the corner made of brick which includes pillars, insets and alignment of fenestration to provide a modern interpretation of locally distinctive features. This would have a darker brick at ground floor level to reference the blackened plinth detailing of adjacent buildings. Secondly a two and a half storey pitched roof section on Esdelle Street which features dormer windows and a slate roof.
- 7. There would be a rear courtyard where bins and bikes would be stored, this being accessed from a passageway off Esdelle Street.

#### **Summary information**

Proposal	Key facts
Scale	
Total no. of dwellings	9
No. of affordable dwellings	0
Total floorspace	519 sqm. All dwellings meet national minimum space standards.
No. of storeys	3
Max. dimensions	Flat roof corner building – 9.3m high
	Pitched roof building – 9m high.
Density	25 dwellings per hectare
Appearance	
Materials	Walls - red brick, dark grey brick
Construction	Roof – Grey slate tiles and grey single ply membrane to flat roof area
	Windows – Aluminium double glazed
	Doors – Aluminium double glazed
Transport matters	
No of car parking spaces	None
No of cycle parking spaces	To be controlled by condition
Servicing arrangements	From Esdelle Street

## Representations

8. Advertised on site and in the press. Adjacent and neighbouring properties have been notified in writing. 3 letters of representation have been received citing the issues as summarised in the table below. All representations are available to view in full at <a href="http://planning.norwich.gov.uk/online-applications/">http://planning.norwich.gov.uk/online-applications/</a> by entering the application number.

Issues raised	Response
Comment from the adult shop which occupies no. 39 St. Augustines which raises no objection to the development but wished to make sure that any future occupiers are aware of their presence and does not object to their license in the future.	See main issue 4.
Concern that the development is an ugly modern shapeless block in amongst the period buildings.	See main issue 2.
No objection to the principle of development but consider that the vertical pilasters are out of keeping with the character of the street and would wish to see this redesigned.	See main issue 2.

## **Consultation responses**

9. Consultation responses are summarised below the full responses are available to view at <a href="http://planning.norwich.gov.uk/online-applications/">http://planning.norwich.gov.uk/online-applications/</a> by entering the application number.

#### **Design and conservation**

10. No objection following receipt of amended plans.

#### **Environmental protection**

11. No objection subject to conditions to ensure noise levels within the proposed units is acceptable

#### Highways (local)

12. No objection on highway grounds. Construction management plan sought via condition. Windows should not be outward opening to avoid obstructions. Extant waiting restrictions on Esdelle Street and St Augustines are adequate and do not require amendment. The extant footway and dropped kerbs are satisfactory for the proposed development and do not require modification.

#### Norfolk historic environment service

13. Following receipt of additional information regarding the site, no objections subject to conditions relating to a programme of archaeological investigation.

### **Assessment of planning considerations**

#### Relevant development plan policies

14. Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk adopted March 2011 amendments adopted Jan. 2014 (JCS)

- JCS1 Addressing climate change and protecting environmental assets
- JCS2 Promoting good design
- JCS3 Energy and water
- JCS4 Housing delivery
- JCS5 The economy
- JCS6 Access and transportation
- JCS9 Strategy for growth in the Norwich policy area

# 15. Norwich Development Management Policies Local Plan adopted Dec. 2014 (DM Plan)

- DM1 Achieving and delivering sustainable development
- DM2 Ensuring satisfactory living and working conditions
- DM3 Delivering high quality design
- DM5 Planning effectively for flood resilience
- DM9 Safeguarding Norwich's heritage
- DM16 Supporting the needs of business
- DM17 Supporting small business
- DM21 Protecting and supporting district and local centres
- DM28 Encouraging sustainable travel
- DM29 Managing car parking demand in the city centre
- DM30 Access and highway safety
- DM32 Encouraging car free and low car housing

#### Other material considerations

## 16. Relevant sections of the National Planning Policy Framework March 2012 (NPPF):

- NPPF0 Achieving sustainable development
- NPPF1 Building a strong, competitive economy
- NPPF2 Ensuring the vitality of town centres
- NPPF4 Promoting sustainable transport
- NPPF6 Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes
- NPPF7 Requiring good design
- NPPF10 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- NPPF12 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment

#### **Case Assessment**

17. Planning law requires that applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Relevant development plan polices are detailed above. Material considerations include policies in the National Planning Framework (NPPF), the Councils standing duties, other policy documents and guidance detailed above and any other matters referred to specifically in the assessment below. The following paragraphs provide an assessment of the main planning issues in this case against relevant policies and material considerations.

#### Main issue 1: Principle of development

- 18. Key policies and NPPF paragraphs DM9, DM12, DM17, DM18, JCS4, JCS5 NPPF paragraphs 49 and 14.
- 19. The site is within a sustainable location where there is a presumption in favour of development for residential and retail purposes. The buildings on site are locally listed and as such it would normally be preferable to retain them where possible. Policy DM9 of the local plan states that:

"Development resulting in harm or loss of significance of a locally listed heritage asset will only be acceptable where:

- a) there are demonstrable and overriding benefits associated with the development; and
- b) it can be demonstrated that there would be no reasonably practicable or viable means of retaining the asset within a development.
- 20. In this instance the buildings have been substantially altered and are in a particularly poor state of repair. The modernised frontage which faces St. Augustine's Street is currently a negative feature within the conservation area. A Structural Survey submitted with the application identifies a number of structural defects and leaking roof. The building is not considered suitable for conversion.
- 21. The planning officer's site visit confirmed that the buildings are in a poor state of repair and not suitable for conversion. In discussion with the conservation officer, the principle of redeveloping the site is considered acceptable, subject to the design of the new proposal conserving or enhancing the character of the conservation area and making the most efficient use of the land.
- 22. Whilst a small retail unit would be provided at ground floor level, the proposal would result in a reduction of business floorspace which has been used for the motorcycle company. Whilst such losses should be carefully scrutinised, the site is not considered particularly suitable for motor trade purposes, being located in a shopping and residential area and without any off-street parking available.
- 23. Regard is also had to the current five-year housing land supply position, where there is currently a shortfall in the supply in the Norwich Policy Area. Given that a retail unit would be maintained at ground floor level, it is considered that the proposal would deliver significant benefits in terms of providing new dwellings, improve the amenity for neighbouring occupiers and, as detailed in the following section, it is considered the proposal would enhance the appearance of the site and character of the conservation area.
- 24. For these reasons, the principle of development is considered acceptable.

#### Main issue 2: Design and Heritage

- 25. Key policies and NPPF paragraphs JCS2, DM3, NPPF paragraphs 9, 17, 56 and 60-66.
- 26. Key policies and NPPF paragraphs DM9, NPPF paragraphs 128-141.
- 27. The conservation character area appraisal identifies that the area benefits from a significant concentration of historic buildings and features from different historical

- periods. This variety is apparent on either side of St Augustine's Street with a variety in height and mixture of pitched roof and gable ends. The predominant building material is red brick with some elevations painted and rendered. Scales vary between two and three storeys.
- 28. The flat roof building proposed would represent a departure from the prevailing character of the street, with only one other flat roof building evident on this stretch of St. Augustine's. However regard is had to the fact the site is a corner plot, and therefore is well placed to accommodate a building which makes a statement and has a degree of prominence. The new building on Esdelle Street would respect the form of buildings on that street, albeit it would be slightly higher in order to accommodate rooms within the roof. Whilst the design is modern and has its own character, the architectural detailing and use of materials takes references from the surrounding buildings, and the proposal is considered to represent a high quality design which would enhance the appearance of the site compared to the current situation. It is considered that the proposal would enhance the character of the conservation area and preserve the setting of nearby listed buildings.
- 29. The design of the shop front would be a distinctive element of the building in its own right which respects the character of existing shop fronts whilst providing a modern appearance which would work well in the street scene.
- 30. The site layout works in terms of access for bin storage and bicycles, and the layout of the building is logical in all other respects.

#### Main issue 3: Transport

- 31. Key policies and NPPF paragraphs JCS6, DM28, DM30, DM31, NPPF paragraphs 17 and 39.
- 32. The proposal is for a car-free development which is acceptable given the proximity to shops and services and public transport modes. There is space for sufficient and secure cycle storage within the rear courtyard. Conditions are recommended relating to the need for a construction management plan. The highway officer raised no objection on highway grounds.

#### Main issue 4: Amenity

33. Key policies and NPPF paragraphs – DM2, DM11, NPPF paragraphs 9 and 17.

#### Amenity for proposed occupiers

- 34. The proposal meets or exceeds the requirements of the national minimum space standards for all flats. There would be no private outdoor amenity space other than the rear courtyard. However regard is had to the location of the site, which is in walking distance of Waterloo Park, and the various café's, pubs, restaurants and open spaces of the city centre.
- 35. With regard to the comments from the operator of the adjacent adult shop, licensing is a separate matter to planning however it is not anticipated that the proposed use would materially conflict with the adjacent business or vice versa, given the nearest flats would be on the first floor of the proposed site, with access from Esdelle Street.

#### Amenity for neighbouring occupiers

36. No material harm would be caused by overlooking, loss of light or overshadowing from the proposal. It is likely that the proposed use could reduce amenity impacts compared to the previous motorbike sales use.

#### Amenity – general

- 37. A condition is recommended restricting the retail unit to be used for A1 (shop), A2 (financial services) or A3 (café) uses only, to assist with the vitality and viability of the District Centre and to ensure that other uses which may create additional impacts are properly assessed.
- 38. The amenity impacts on proposed and future occupiers are considered acceptable.

#### Main issue 5: Flood risk

- 39. Key policies and NPPF paragraphs JCS1, DM5, NPPF paragraphs 100 and 103.
- 40. The site is within flood zone 1 which is the zone of lowest risk from fluvial flooding. However it is within a critical drainage catchment. The proposal is unlikely to increase the potential for surface water run-off, given that the site is already covered in buildings and hard standing. Notwithstanding this, some water attenuation measures would be welcomed and this could be sought by condition.
- 41. Foul drainage would connect to the mains sewer to which Anglian Water raises no objection.

#### Compliance with other relevant development plan policies

42. A number of development plan policies include key targets for matters such as parking provision and energy efficiency. The table below indicates the outcome of the officer assessment in relation to these matters.

Requirement	Relevant policy	Compliance
Cycle storage	DM31	Yes subject to condition
Car parking provision	DM31	Not applicable
Refuse Storage/servicing	DM31	Yes subject to condition
Engrave officional	JCS 1 & 3	Not applicable
Energy efficiency	DM3	
Water efficiency	JCS 1 & 3	Yes subject to condition
Sustainable urban drainage	DM3/5	Yes subject to condition

#### **Equalities and diversity issues**

43. There are no significant equality or diversity issues.

#### Local finance considerations

- 44. Under Section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the council is required when determining planning applications to have regard to any local finance considerations, so far as material to the application. Local finance considerations are defined as a government grant or the Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 45. Whether or not a local finance consideration is material to a particular decision will depend on whether it could help to make the development acceptable in planning terms. It would not be appropriate to make a decision on the potential for the development to raise money for a local authority.
- 46. In this case local finance considerations are not considered to be material to the case.

#### Conclusion

- 47. Whilst the loss of the locally listed buildings on site would result in some harm to the character of the area, the condition of these buildings is not good and they have also been significantly and unsympathetically altered. The proposal would deliver significant benefits in terms of redeveloping the site to provide a more efficient use of the land and improvement to the street scene, with the design striking the right balance between introducing a new and modern feature building whilst respecting characteristics of the existing street scene and conservation area. In addition to changes to the appearance of the site, delivering nine new residential dwellings and a modernised retail unit in a sustainable location are particular benefits of the scheme.
- 48. The development is in accordance with the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and the Development Plan, and it has been concluded that there are no material considerations that indicate it should be determined otherwise.

#### Recommendation

To approve application no. 18/00058/F - 41 - 43 St Augustines Street, Norwich, NR3 3BY and grant planning permission subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Standard time limit;
- 2. In accordance with plans:
- 3. Retail unit to be for A1, A2 or A3 purposes only.
- 4. Water efficiency residential
- 5. Water efficiency commercial
- 6. Materials to be submitted for approval
- 7. Landscaping of rear courtyard to be submitted for approval
- 8. Cycle and bin storage details to be submitted for approval
- 9. Land contamination report to be submitted and measures implemented if required
- 10. Surface water drainage attenuation measures to be provided.
- 11. Archaeological written scheme of investigation

- 11. The building envelope shall be constructed so as to provide sound attenuation against external noise and ensure internal sound levels no greater than:
  - a) 35dB LAeq(16 hour) in the main living rooms of the dwelling(s) (for daytime and evening use); and
  - b) 30dB LAeq(8 hour)/45dB LAmax(fast) in the bedrooms of the dwelling(s) (for nightime use) in line with World Health Organisation guidance, with windows shut and other means of ventilation provided.
- 12. Contruction management plan to be submitted.
- 13. All windows should be sash style and not outward opening.

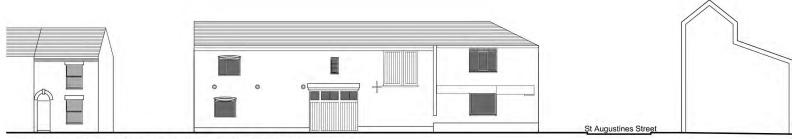
#### Article 35(2) statement

The local planning authority in making its recommendation has had due regard to paragraph 187 of the National Planning Policy Framework as well as the development plan, national planning policy and other material considerations, following negotiations with the applicant and subsequent amendments the application has been approved subject to appropriate conditions and for the reasons outlined in the officer report.

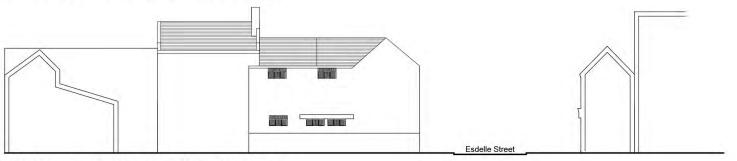




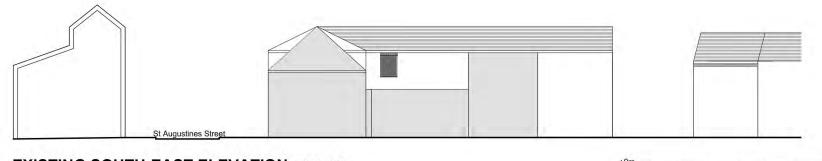
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**EXISTING NORTH-WEST ELEVATION 1:200@A3** 



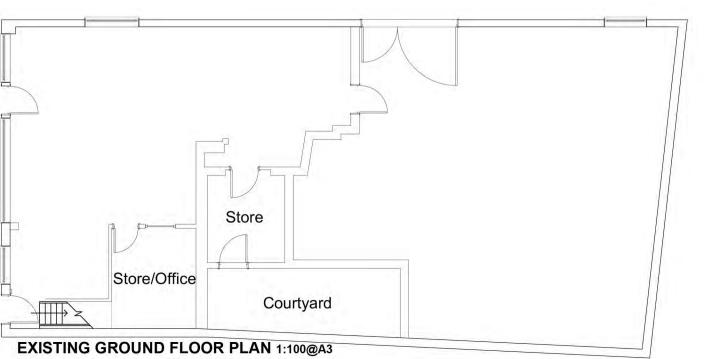
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**EXISTING SOUTH-EAST ELEVATION 1:200@A3** 













Proposed South Elevation St Augustines Street

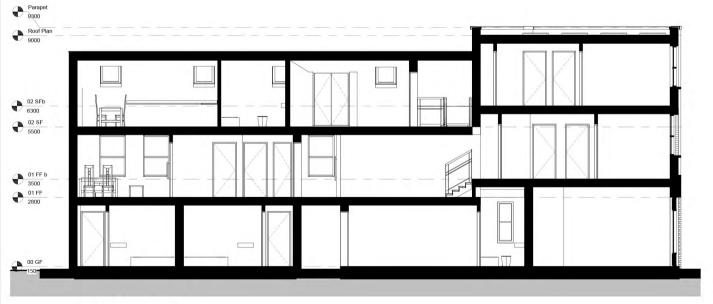






West Elevation
1:50

South Elevation
1:50



Long Section A - A





North Elevation 1:50



**Section B - B** 1:50

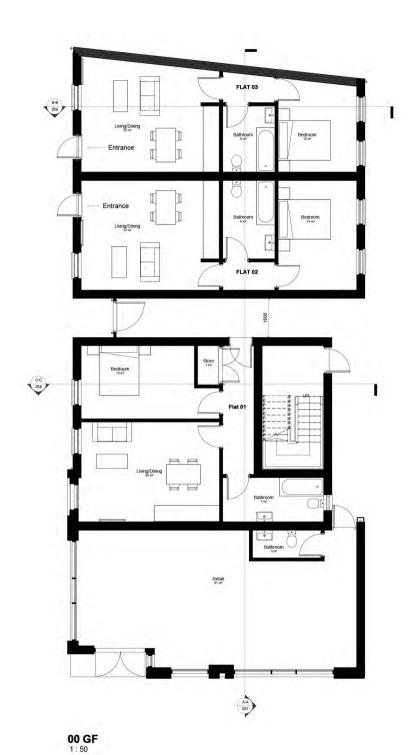


East Elevation



**Section C - C** 1:50







Name	Area	
	1000	
Flat 1	50 m <sup>2</sup>	
Flat 2	44 m²	
Flat 3	41 m²	
Flat 4	63 m²	
Flat 5	40 m²	
Flat 6	45 m²	
Flat 7	41 m²	
Flat 8	75 m²	
Flat 9	68 m²	
Retail Unit	54 m²	
Total:	522 m	



**01 FF** 1:50

