creating a better place
for people and wildlife

Environment Agency

Adur & Worthing Councils
Planning team
Portland House
Richmond Road
Worthing
West Sussex
BN11 1LF

Our ref: HA/2023/125574/02
Your ref: AWDM/1653/23

Date: 26 January 2024

Dear Planning team (FAO: Hannah Barker),

CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF EXISTING 2NO. FLATS (174 AND 174A) TO FORM 1NO. 3 BED DWELLING HOUSE AND NEW 3-STOREY ATTACHED 2 BED DWELLING INCLUDING REMOVAL OF PITCHED ROOF AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SECOND FLOOR FLAT ROOFED EXTENSION; 3 STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSIONS WITH REAR BALCONIES AT FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR; FORMATION OF 2 NO. OFF ROAD PARKING SPACES.

174 BRIGHTON ROAD, LANCING, WEST SUSSEX, BN15 8LL.

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the above application following the submission of a revised Flood Risk Assessment.

We have reviewed the information as submitted and set out our position and comments below.

Environment Agency position

We are satisfied that our previous objection can be removed, provided that the following condition be attached to any planning permission granted, and that the details in relation to the condition be submitted and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Condition – Flood risk

The development shall be carried out in accordance with the submitted Flood Risk Assessment (ref: AEG3230_BN15_Adur_01 Flood Risk Assessment, prepared by Aegaea) and the following mitigation measures it details:

- **Sleeping accommodation is to be located on the first floor or above.**

These mitigation measures shall be fully implemented prior to occupation and subsequently in accordance with the scheme's timing/phasing arrangements.

The measures detailed above shall be retained and maintained thereafter throughout the lifetime of the development.

Reasons for the condition

To reduce the risk of flooding to the proposed development and future occupants.

The condition is in line with the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) for Flood Risk and Coastal Change.

Please notify us immediately if you are unable to apply our suggested condition to allow further consideration and advice.

Advice to the Local Planning Authority and Applicant

If this were a new build, we would be seeking for the design to place all sleeping accommodation on the second floor to reduce flood risk to occupants. We acknowledge that for this conversion of an existing property, removing bedrooms from the ground floor and reducing the number of bedrooms on the first floor is a betterment. However, if it is possible, we would advise the applicant to consider moving all sleeping accommodation to the second floor to reduce the risk of flooding.

Flood resistance and resilience

We strongly recommend the use of flood resistance and resilience measures. Physical barriers, raised electrical fittings and special construction materials are just some of the ways you can help reduce flood damage.

To find out which measures will be effective for this development, please contact your building control department. If you'd like to find out more about reducing flood damage, please visit the Flood Risk and Coastal Change pages of the Planning Practice Guidance.

Further guidance on flood resistance and resilience measures can also be found in:

Government guidance on flood resilient construction
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flood-resilient-construction-of-new-buildings

CIRIA Code of Practice for property flood resilience
https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/Resources/Free_publications/CoP_for_PFR_resource.aspx

British Standard 85500 – Flood resistant and resilient construction
https://shop.bsigroup.com/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030299686

Advice to the Local Planning Authority

Flood warning and emergency response

We do not normally comment on or approve the adequacy of flood emergency response procedures accompanying development proposals, as we do not carry out these roles during a flood. Our involvement with this development during an emergency will be limited to delivering flood warnings to occupants/users covered by our flood warning

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network. Planning practice guidance (PPG) states that, in determining whether a development is safe, the ability of residents and users to safely access and exit a building during a design flood and to evacuate before an extreme flood needs to be considered. One of the key considerations to ensure that any new development is safe is whether adequate flood warnings would be available to people using the development.

In all circumstances where warning and emergency response is fundamental to managing flood risk, we advise local planning authorities to formally consider the emergency planning and rescue implications of new development in making their decisions. As such, we recommend you refer to 'Flood risk emergency plans for new development' and undertake appropriate consultation with your emergency planners and the emergency services to determine whether the proposals are safe in accordance with paragraph 173 of the NPPF and the guiding principles of the PPG.

Signing up for flood warnings

The applicant/occupants should phone Floodline on 0345 988 1188 to register for a flood warning, or visit https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings. Our flood warning service is a free service that provides warnings of flooding from rivers, the sea and groundwater, direct by telephone, email or text message. Anyone can sign up.

Flood warnings can give people valuable time to prepare for flooding – time that allows them to move themselves, their families and precious items to safety. Flood warnings can also save lives and enable the emergency services to prepare and help communities.

For practical advice on preparing for a flood, visit https://www.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding.

To get help during a flood, visit https://www.gov.uk/help-during-flood.

For advice on what do after a flood, visit https://www.gov.uk/after-flood.

If you have any queries regarding the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the advisor identified below.

Yours faithfully,

Environment Agency – Solent & South Downs

Sustainable Places Advisor: Anna Rabone
Direct dial: 02077 140525
Direct e-mail: anna.rabone@environment-agency.gov.uk

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