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Air Quality Assessment

10 HIGH STREET, SALISBURY, SP1 2NW

REAR FIRST FLOOR INFILL EXTENSION & REPLACEMENT ROOF TO EXISTING REAR EXTENSION ON EXISTING DWELLING

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Proposal

The proposal is for a first floor 6m² infill kitchen extension and new roof to replace the existing flat roof on the rear of the existing building.

Assessment

Government guidance state that Assessments need to be proportionate to the nature and scale of development proposed and the potential impacts taking into account existing air quality condition.

With regards to the current condition, Wiltshire council states that, air quality in Wiltshire is predominantly very good. However, there are currently eight AQMAs that have been declared which includes Salisbury city centre within the ring road where the property is located. They also state that... Air quality has improved significantly across the county in recent years, and it is likely that we will be able to start revoking the AQMAs from 2025 onwards. Therefore, the shift in focus will be to maintain good levels of air quality and further reducing very fine particulates (PM_{2.5}).

Being an existing domestic dwelling there are a number of combustion sources that give rise to air pollution.

These can include:

- burning garden and other waste
- burning of wood and fossil fuels heating
- gas heating.

The existing dwelling does not have a garden or outside space therefore there is no garden waste to burn or space to burn other waste. The property benefits from waste and recycling collections which is a much more sustainable way to handle waste in these instances.

The property dates from the late C18 and is grade II Listed. Many of the original open fireplaces exist in the principal rooms and form a central part of the buildings protected characteristics. Therefore, while these are identified as existing sources of air pollution these features are not likely to be removed. The building has gas central heating which mitigates the reliance on the original open fires. Potential improvement could be sort by installing wood burning stoves in rooms where fires are likely to be lit however these would require separate listed building consent. To ensure that these meet with current regulations these would need to use a HETAS approved engineer and comply with building Regulations.



As mentioned, the existing home has gas central heating with limited scope for introducing practical or financially viable alternatives at this stage, due to limitations of siting renewable alternatives and the historic fabric of the listed building. Where the new roof and infill extension are to be built these will incorporate modern standards in insulation and insulated slim double glazing to new doors, windows and rooflights. This improvement will help to reduce the heat losses in this part of the building and reduce the heat demand on the current boiler reducing gas usage.

During construction there are risks that air pollution can be caused by dust if construction practices are poorly managed. In this instance there would be limited scope for pollution of this nature due to the size of the works however dust suppression and responsible waste handling will be implemented by the Principal Contractor in accordance with Construction Design & Management Regulations.

Conclusion

The proposed works will not increase the potential air pollution from the buildings existing combustion sources.

There is the potential to reduce gas emissions by the improvement of the thermal performance of the replacement roof and infill extensions building fabric.

Control measures will be put in place to reduce pollution during construction following current good practice and CDM regulations.

Potential further improvements have been identified for the future upgrade of the houses historic solid fuel open fires.

End.