



Appeal Decision

Site visit made on 16 July 2025

by **Martin Andrews MA(Planning) BSc(Econ) DipTP & DipTP(Dist) MRTPI**

an Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State

Decision date: 25 July 2025

Appeal Ref: APP/E3335/D/25/3365721

11 Wordsworth Drive, Taunton TA1 2HG

- The appeal is made under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) against a refusal to grant planning permission.
 - The appeal is made by Mrs Jennifer Farrar against the decision of Somerset Council.
 - The application Ref. is 38/25/0016.
 - The development proposed is the formation of a dropped kerb and parking to the front.
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Decision

1. The appeal is dismissed.

Main Issue

2. The main issue is the effect of the proposed dropped kerb and frontage parking on highway and pedestrian safety.

Reasons

3. The appeal dwelling is a semi-detached dwelling in a row of houses with modestly sized front gardens enclosed by boundary fencing. The appeal application sought to install a dropped kerb to enable parking on a new tarmacked surface.
4. However, the ability to manoeuvre on the site is particularly constrained by the projection of the front porch. This means that the limited area available is clearly inadequate to allow a vehicle to both enter and leave the site in a forward gear whilst at the same time having a clear view of any pedestrians on each side. The angle of approach and departure would additionally involve a greater use of both the footpath and the parking bay.
5. Furthermore, the officer's report advises that this is a busy road and at my visit I also saw that immediately to the west there is a bend in the road and a junction with a side road. These further hazards for drivers already on the road and in close proximity, add to the risk arising from a potential conflict with vehicles entering and leaving the property and from manoeuvres that are considered to fall outside of the Highway Authority's standing advice on frontage parking.
6. I have noted the circumstances that are advanced in support of the appeal in respect of a close relative with disabilities. However, whilst the proposal would increase convenience, the presence of a lay-by outside the property in my view makes a significant difference to the overall ease of access. There are also potential alterations and alternatives to the existing steps that could be carried out to facilitate access to the house itself.

7. As regards the parking area at No. 7, there is a larger area for on-site turning and therefore a likelihood of vehicles entering and leaving this site in a forward gear. I do not therefore consider the crossover for this dwelling to set a precedent for the appeal scheme.
8. Overall, I consider that the proposed dropped kerb and frontage parking would have an unacceptably adverse effect on pedestrian and highway safety. This would be in conflict with Policy DM1 of the Taunton Deane District Core Strategy 2011-2028 adopted in 2012 and with Government policies for highway safety in Section 9 of the National Planning Policy Framework, revised December 2024.
9. The appeal therefore fails.

Martin Andrews

INSPECTOR