

Statement of Need: Extension at Crick Primary School

Background

This proposed extension has arisen due to new housing development in the village of Crick on the land to the north of Fallowfields and Coleman Close. It is related to the planning permission granted by Daventry District Council (DA/2013/0059) to David Wilson Homes for up to 61 dwellings.

The Section 106 Agreement of September 2013 (and subsequent Deed of Variation) makes provision for a Pre-School Education Contribution “towards the provision of additional pre-school places at schools and other providers serving the Development.” It is to be paid prior to the occupation of the 25th dwelling.

Crick Pre-School currently operates from the premises of Crick Primary School in Main Road, Crick (NN6 7TU). The Pre-School has leased a spare classroom for a number of years, which was not used for statutory school-age pupils whilst there were low pupil numbers on roll. This classroom now needs to be brought back into use for teaching, as the demand for school places in Crick is rising, and there is therefore a shortfall of accommodation. An extension is being proposed that will permit both the Pre-School and Primary School to stay together on site and continue their services for the families in Crick.

Pupil numbers

The current (October 2014) pupil numbers at Crick Primary are:

Reception: 27
Year 1: 25
Year 2: 21
Year 3: 24
Year 4: 24
Year 5: 25
Year 6: 18

In previous years, the school has had year groups with just 14 pupils, and the current Year 6 with 18 pupils will be leaving next summer. The lower year groups are starting to fill up towards the full one form of entry of 30 children in each year. This means the school will have to organise as seven separate classes, instead of the six previously, and so the spare classroom occupied by the Pre-School needs to be taken back as school accommodation.

Crick Pre-School

The Pre-School is for children aged 2 ¼ to 4 years of age. The operating hours are 9am-3pm, Monday - Friday, and the same term dates as Crick Primary School. There is occasional use of the room in the evenings for parents' meetings or work by staff.

The proposed extension

A number of options have been explored to best accommodate the required facilities for Crick. Initial consideration was given to a separate stand-alone building or mobile classroom for the Pre-School in the school grounds, but following feasibility work undertaken by PhP architects, the preferred option is to build a classroom extension for the school and make moderate alterations to the area of the school building occupied by the Pre-School, so that they can remain in situ. This proposal has come forward with a collaborative partnership between the Primary School, the Pre-School and the County Council, and all three parties are contributing to the budget for the project.

The County Council has a statutory duty to deliver sufficient school places for statutory school-age pupils. It also has a duty to support third party organisations in providing pre-school and childcare services for families. This proposal permits these services in Crick to keep pace with the growth in housing.

Scope of works

- 1) The new classroom and connecting corridor and toilet
- 2) Improvements to the Outdoor Covered Play and canopy extension
- 3) Re-organisation of space for the Pre-School

The scheme is now in the County Council's approved capital programme, and a 10 year lease is being arranged for the Pre-School's occupancy of the Primary School to provide them with a longer security of tenure.