Job Ref: 6286

PLANNING STATEMENT

Proposed
Additional Classroom

At

Camborne Close
Northampton
NN4 8PH

For

Gloucester Nursery School

Ref: 6286-010101-141201:MC:MC

December 2014
PLAN
NING STATEMENT:

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM
AT GLOUCESTER NURSERY SCHOOL

Gloucester Nursery School:

The site is currently in use as a Nursery School that offers nursery education and care on a part-time and full-time basis to children aged 3 and 4 years, before they are admitted to Primary School. The School also incorporates a Children's Centre.

Proposal:

The School has obtained funding from NCC to provide opportunities for 2 year old children to attend Nursery School, in accordance with the latest Government initiative.

The existing school does not have the facilities to cater for an additional year group hence the proposal. Therefore the proposal is to erect a 120sq metre modular standalone building adjacent the existing school.

The building is located on the south west boundary of the sit, adjacent the existing school buildings. The area of the building conforms to the DFE regulations for a classroom for this age group.

Planning Justification:

The following policies from the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy and Northampton Local Plan (1997) are judged to be relevant to the proposal:  

**Northampton Local Plan (1997):**
- **Policy H35 – Childcare Facilities.** Proposals for the provision of childcare are encouraged subject to avoiding negative impacts on Highway safety, and adjoining occupiers. The proposal is located within a predominantly residential area to enable access on foot or by Public Transport, and the building is oriented into the site and toward the existing building to minimise disturbance.
- **Policy L13 – Local Community Facilities.** The proposal reinforces the viability of the existing nursery by increasing available spaces in an existing childcare location.

**West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy:**
The provision of an additional classroom supports the principles outlined in **para 4.56** and **Objectives 4 & 10** by supporting educational provision, and urban communities by creating additional childcare places to support working families. The proposal is in compliance with **policies C1, RC1, RC2 and E6** by locating enhanced provision within existing community facilities in an existing urban area within easy walking distance of Public Transport.

**National Planning Policy Framework:**
The NPPF sets out those rules which the planning system is required to perform in order to ensure the delivery of sustainable development. The proposal will enable the improvement of the education & childcare provision in Northampton and ensure the Nursery remains an attractive option to parents considering the needs of their children. The proposal is in line with the Core Planning Principles set out in **para 17** of the NPPF.

The Government attaches great importance to ensuring the a sufficient choice of childcare places is available to meet the needs of existing communities. **Para 72** of NPPF also encourages local planning authorities to take a proactive approach to widening the choice of education and the need to expand create or alter schools to do so. The proposal therefore conforms to the Governments employment and childcare objectives.

**Conservation Area:**

The site is not within a conservation area and is not a listed building.

**Landscaping:**
With reference to Local Planning Policies, no trees or hedges will be affected by the proposed extension. The existing footpath will be retained and the existing grassed areas retained as existing. The existing hedging was been trimmed back prior to this application. The foundation design of this modular building requires frequent small pad foundations. This therefore has minimal effect on the adjacent hedge compared to a traditional building.

**Access to the site:**

There is no existing car parking to the site. Pedestrian access remains un-altered.

**Conclusion:**

The Nursery School is a key piece of local infrastructure which remains an attractive place for parents to send their children in their Nursery years. It is clearly important that the school’s facilities meet today’s modern educational requirements and provide a safe and attractive learning environment for teachers and pupils alike.

It is therefore considered that the application, confirms to both national and local planning policy, therefore should be seen favourably and approved without delay.

If the application is refused and Nursery School will be unable to offer 2 year olds with Nursery School places which will deny the local community of an important asset.