Hardingstone Primary Mobile Planning Statement PS01

Hardingstone Academy, Martins Lane, Northampton, NN4 6DJ

Proposal: Application for Planning Permission for a Double Temporary Mobile Classroom.

The application consists of the following.

- Location plan LP88009
- Floor Plans D88009
- Planning Statement PS01

Hardingstone Primary School:

Hardingstone Academy is a one form of entry primary school (30 pupils per year group, 210 pupils in total) on the southern outskirts of Northampton. The County Council is working with the Academy provider (EMLC) on the aspiration of doubling the capacity to two forms of entry (420 pupils) if a suitable accommodation solution can be found. Feasibility work has been commissioned to look at the options for an extension to provide the seven extra classrooms and curriculum space that would be required. The site is 1.2 hectares in total and also accommodates a private mobile which is owned by the “Crazy for Kids” Pre-school. It is planned that the extension would be completed by September 2017, when the school would formally increase its published admission number to 60 pupils per year group. The opportunity to re-organise the site layout will also be incorporated in the brief, particularly to improve the airlock arrangements and access to the Pre-school.

Despite the considerable extra primary capacity that has been added to the schools system in recent years, there continues to be pressure on places in Northampton town and the surrounding wider area. The map below is a postcode analysis of the current pupils attending Hardingstone Academy and shows that the intake is mainly from the village itself, from the Wootton Fields area and a few from the Hunsbury / Far Cotton / Delapre / Briar Hill parts of town. These schools are all full, except for one or two places in some year groups.
Pupil numbers currently (November 2014) at the school are:
R – 30; Yr 1 – 26; Yr 2 – 30; Yr 3 – 28; Yr 4 – 31; Yr 5 – 22; Yr 6 – 29

Planning permission is being sought for a double mobile classroom, so that the school can take an extra 30 Reception children in September 2015 and September 2016, prior to any expansion being formally implemented associated with a permanent extension of the buildings.

**Proposal:**
The application seeks planning permission for a double mobile to be installed during the summer holidays 2015. It is expected that the mobile will be required until September 2017 or until the proposed extension is completed.

The proposed building is of standard single storey mobile classroom construction; as used throughout the county. The elevations are perpendicular surmounted by a low pitch roof. The roof is finished in grey felt with a small overhang, discharging rainwater into a black PVC gutter and down pipes. The height of the roof is approximately 3.5m from ground level. The walls are refinished in a stippled weatherproof coating, all painted in dark Green (12 B 25) colour. All windows have white uPVC frames and are double glazed in clear float glass. A wooden slatted skirt is fitted between ground and floor level, the slats being horizontal.

We have looked at the school site and consider the best location for the mobile to be at the rear of the school as shown on the Location Plan LP88009 would reduce the impact on the school play...
ground and enable efficient access to services (drainage, power etc). This position would also reduce the impact on the grass playing fields as we would look to locate the mobile as close to the school as possible. This location also keeps the mobile classroom safely away from the proposed extension and expected works compound.

Planning Justification:

Section 38(6) of the 2004 Act requires that planning applications be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Therefore, the enclosed proposal should be judged against those relevant policies from the Northampton Local Plan (1997) the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) as well as the content of the National Planning Policy Framework NPPF (2012) where applicable.

The Northampton Local Plan Map confirms that there are no designations relating to the element of the site where the proposed mobile is to be located. The area does not sit within a conservation area.

The NPPF sets out those roles which planning system is required to perform in order to ensure the delivery of sustainable development. The application contained herein will enable the improvement and continued supply of the education offer in Northamptonshire and will ensure that the school is able to offer an attractive local option to parents who are considering the educational needs of their children with out the need to travel excessive distances.

The proposal is clearly in line with the Core Planning Principles set out at Para 17 of the Framework. The Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing communities. In addition, Para 72 of the framework encourages local planning authorities to take a pro-active, positive and collaborative approach to widening the choice of education. Para 72 also requires LPA’s to afford great weight to the need to expand, create or alter schools, the enclosed application is therefore in conformity with the Governments planning and education objectives.

The proposal will improve the education offer for the aforementioned settlements from which the Primary school draws its pupils. This is in line with the vision and objectives of the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1). The Local Plan clearly states that an increase in population is expected and the development of Hardingstone Primary will clearly support this part of the plan.

Conclusion:

The Primary school is a key piece of local infrastructure which needs to remain an attractive place for parents to send their children in their formative years. It is clear that the demand on local primary school places will increase over the next few years and the increase in primary places
offered by the mobile classroom and ultimately the proposed school extension will help to meet these demands.

It is therefore considered that the enclosed application, which conforms to both national and local planning policy, should be seen favourably and approved without delay in line with the presumption as set out at Para 14 of the Framework.

I trust that the above sufficiently justifies the enclosed planning application and provides the information required to deliver a positive decision.

Should you wish to discuss the above or have any questions in relation to the enclosures then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Myers
LGSS - Property Services
April 2015