Planning Support Statement

Ecton Brook Primary School; Gazebo

Purpose/Use;
Ecton Brook Primary School is used for primary education for approximately 300 children and also has a Surestart Centre on site.

The school has purchased and has had installed a wooden gazebo, known as a Gozova Amphitheatre. The purpose of the gazebo is to provide outdoor covered space to further enhance and develop the educational experience of the pupils whilst at the school. In respect of the Northampton Borough Council Local Plan, Saved Planning Policies, E20 – New Development, the design of the gazebo structure adequately reflects the character of its surroundings. It is a natural wooden structure sited on a grass playing field. Its location is such that although visible from the roadway there is no impact on the privacy or quality of sunlight or daylight to any neighbouring properties, in fact there are no properties adjacent to the gazebo as it is sited in the school playing field and there is the whole school building between it and neighbouring properties. Therefore the requirements of E20 have been reached.

Scale;
The gazebo is a single storey, open sided wooden construction with seating inside. The overall structure measures eight metres by eight metres with a raised canvas roof five metres high. Situated on the edge of the school’s large playing field the gazebo has little impact on the school site as a whole. The only requirement for planning permission is because of the height of the structure, namely the apex of the canvas roof. This exceeded the permitted development rights allowed under Part 12 of General Permitted Development Order 1995. Had the roof been constructed at a lower level there would have been no requirement for planning approval. Other than the roof height the structure accords with relevant national, regional and local planning policies.

Access;
Whilst the gazebo is on a raised platform (nominal 400mm high) there is a stepped approach which is compliant for ambulant disabled persons. The use of the gazebo is always supervised by staff and, if necessary, a removable ramp can be provided when required for wheelchair bound persons.

Location;
The gazebo is located in close proximity to an existing footpath within the school grounds. The gazebo is set within the grassed areas of the playing field with no external landscaping required

Conclusion;
The installation of the gazebo has provided an additional learning and enjoyment experience to the pupils of the school. This has been no significant impact on the surrounding area and the large size of the school playing fields has easily incorporated the gazebo. No structural alterations have been made to the fabric of the school and there has been no requirement for any alterations to water, waste or electricity.
The gazebo has proved to be an immediate improvement to the school’s facilities.