Kings Preschool at
All Saints Primary School Northampton

Planning Application
Supporting Statement

Address:
Boughton Green Road
Northampton
NN2 7AJ

Reason for development:
Northamptonshire County Council has committed to the Government’s agenda of Extended School Use. Part of the Extended School Use agenda is to provide facilities for children of pre school age in addition to before and after school care. In adopting the agenda, many schools in the County have facilitated the provision of pre school care on their site.

As part of the Northampton Review of Schools, and public consultations, the community was assured that all efforts would be made to ensure that no existing playgroup had to be discontinued as a result of any change in school premises.

Kings Preschool was previously accommodated at Kingsthorpe Community College. Due to a new school being built on the KCC site the preschool moved into temporary accommodation in Kingsthorpe with the intention of moving back to the KCC site, once building works were complete. Infact planning permission was sought and approved in 2007 for this purpose. It has however become apparent that the proposed provision at KCC is not suitable for the preschool to operate successfully. It is therefore proposed to relocate the preschool to All Saints Primary School. The preschool is the only facility of its type in the area and it is important to the users of the preschool and the community that the provision continues.

Unfortunately, funding cannot be made available, either via PFI or the County Council’s capital funding sources, to provide a permanent building for playgroups. The Preschool Management team have also explored all areas to try and identify funding for a permanent build but without any success. However, it has been possible to secure sufficient funding to provide a mobile for playgroups that may be forced to close by the changes resulting from building work as part of the PFI contract.

At All Saints primary School the mobile would remain in the ownership of the County Council but would be leased to the preschool who would take full financial responsibility for the building.

The school governors are fully supportive in offering part of the school site to allow a mobile to be placed on site for use by the preschool. This would ensure the provision continues and the close links with the community are maintained.
Proposed site:

The proposed site is currently a disused corner of the school field. The proposal to place a mobile in this location will not prohibit any school activities. Indeed it will make good use of an otherwise derelict area.

Staffing implications:

The staffing at the existing preschool consists of 5-6 staff at each session. As the provision is for either a morning or an afternoon session, the maximum number of staff at any time will be six. There will be no need to increase the staffing levels at the new premises.

The hours that the preschool operates are currently 9.20 am to 12noon and12.30pm to 3.00pm. The arrival of staff and parents is coordinated to avoid the times that are crucial to the school. These hours will continue at the new site and any increase in hours would be agreed with the school in order to ensure a coordinated approach that minimises the number of people arriving at the site at any one time.

Statement of Community Involvement / Consultation:
The application is to relocate an existing preschool. The preschool has been operating on the KCC site for many years and is used by parents living in the surrounding neighbourhood. At public meetings and consultations on the new Secondary school, there was a clear expectation from people attending that the preschool would be able to continue.

Demolitions:
No demolitions are required on site prior to the installation of the mobile

Trees to be felled:
Two old fruit trees are required to be felled prior to the installation of the mobile. They are both in a very poor condition. The majority of one of the trees is dead and in quite a dangerous state.

Access:
Both vehicular and pedestrian access to the site will be via the existing school access. Ramped access to the mobile will be provided to the main entrance and the fire exits to comply with DDA legislation

Car parking:
Some staff live locally and do not bring a vehicle to work others make alternative arrangements for parking off site. This practice would continue.
Services implications:
All necessary mains statutory services are provided for the school. Connections for the mobile services will be within the main school site.

Waste management:
There will be minimal waste generated during installation of the mobile. Each contractor working on the project will be responsible for disposing of any waste generated by them to a licensed tip.

Ian Shanks
Buildings & Capital Development
Children & Young People's Service

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