Design & Access Statement in support of a general purpose room development at:
Bellinge Primary School, Northampton.

Context: (generating principles and concepts)

The present site buildings operate as a primary school and are predominantly of single storey structure, which occupies the northerly area of the site. Fieldmill Road encloses the school site boundary to the south, a public pathway to the north and dwelling houses generally surrounding the school site.

The school although generally on a flat plane has raised levels to the north allowing pedestrian entrance to the site and lowered levels to the south serving the hard and soft play areas. The proposed extension is required to be easily accessed off the school main entrance while remaining a 'separate' element for community use during and out of normal school hours.
There is a single entrance for vehicles and pedestrians off Station Road, which is proposed to remain in operation as exists.

The dwelling houses, which surround the above site, range from terraced properties to large detached family units and are generally two storey properties, this 'scale' of development is an influencing factor within any proposals.

Objectives: (access, scale, layout & appearance)

The prime objective that all proposals would reflect the scale and existing physical character of the immediate area was coupled with that of the required public access and exit from the site. By proposing the extended plan (refer submitted drawings) the management and rational of the site together with respecting the adjoining properties make best use of the area taking note of the raised levels.
All development will comply fully with the current Disability Discrimination Act to provide a fully accessible site throughout the new extension.
Existing surrounding / adjacent pathways and lighting levels will not be altered, internal site luminance where proposed will be low level as not to impinge on the adjacent properties.

Proposals: (physicality and building setting)

The present use involves the day to day running of a primary school, including delivery of materials and general associated administration. The school has enjoyed a recent major building refurbishment but lacks an area with which to involve the local community at various levels.
The development is of a very simple nature. The 'layout' has optimised the available building area in terms of the adjacent properties and allows inclusive access through and to the new development, as proposed the single vehicle entrance will not change in operational use.

Note: The above should be read in full with the planning submission drawings.
Planning Supporting Statement
Bellinge Primary School

January 2008

Introduction - The purpose of this statement is to briefly explain the single room extension associated with the above school.

1. SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND
   Bellinge Primary school has been extended and refurbished in the recent past to accommodate the growing number of pupils attending the school and to facilitate the basic requirements of a school of this size, however there lacks an area which can accommodate school and community needs without disruption to the day to day management of the school.

2. PHILOSOPHY
   Bellinge Primary has successfully strived to provide the best available services for users of the school and continues to do so. Furthermore, there has been a desire to ensure that the facilities keep pace with any expansion of school numbers and basic service needs.

3. CURRENT POSITION
   As a result of the above philosophy, there is an `annual` need to assess all sections of the school and react to requirements accordingly. The prime objective for 2008 is to ensure the needs of the school and the wider community are catered for within future development. This has outlined the need for an additional general purpose area which can be isolated or integrated within the school as requirements dictate.

4. PROPOSAL
   The overall scheme is a proposal which has been fully detailed and outlined within the Access and Design statement:-

5. CONCLUSION

   The proposals being put forward will provide a step forward for Bellinge Primary Schools continuous need to provide the best primary school facilities serving the local community and indeed the governing school authority.

Director – Brian Wilson BA (Hons) Grad Dip Arch, Dip PP
SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN

FOR

BELLINGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2003
(Updated March 2004; December 2007)
Background to the School

Location:
Bellinge Primary school is situated on Fieldmill Road in the Bellinge housing estate which is located in Northampton East. Fieldmill Road and Fishponds Road are the two main roads used.

Catchment:
The majority of children who travel to Bellinge Primary School come from the estates surrounding the school and a small minority have to cross a busy road e.g. Fishponds Road.

Other factors:
Fieldmill Road and Fishponds Road are routes for local buses. There are two bus stops outside the community shops area near to the school site. Parents who deliver and or collect their child by car, park in the Community House car park. There is a Crossing Guide in between Community House and the school entrance on Fieldmill Road.

Daily deliveries attempt to enter the school car park, however this is extremely difficult (almost impossible) as the limited space for parking is presently fully utilised by staff car parking needs. Therefore, large lorries have to park across the drive area at the Fieldmill Road entrance. Currently there are not adequate car parking spaces for staff. Double car parking is the norm and the school does not have any designated car parking spaces for either disabled pupils, staff, parents, governors or visitors. However, this will be addressed when the school’s present building work is completed. Plans incorporate a larger car park with designated car parking spaces.

Other daily regular visitors to the school site requiring car parking on site:

- Catering Staff
- Delivery of meals
- Education Welfare Officer
- Nurse/Doctor/Health Visitor/Dentist
- ICT Personnel
- School Improvement Advisor
- Children and Young Families personnel (including Traveller Services, Home School Liaison)
- Governors
- Speech Therapist
- Reading Volunteers
- Music Service teachers
- Social Care and Health personnel
- Grounds Maintenance
- PFI Contractors
- Lettings: Gym Club, Cubs and Beavers

It is envisaged community use during the day will not require any additional car parking once the remodelled car park is completed. (Many community service providers are listed above and many of the members of the community who would use the facilities would come from the local estate and would therefore arrive on foot.) Ample car parking will be available during the evenings, particularly when staff have left the site. Car parking for evening lettings is manageable at present and will be ample when the remodelling is complete.

Current Policy re: Parental Parking:
There are two entrances to the school grounds that parents use; arrangements have also been made with the Community House for parents to use the car park around 9.00am and at 3.15 pm.
- Entrance 1:- pedestrian gate by Community House at the side of the school.
- Entrance 2:- pedestrian gate at the rear of the school off Waterfowl Walk. The majority of pupils and parents use this entrance to and from the school.
- The main school gates will continue to be locked from 08.45 to 09.15 and from 15.00 to 15.30 to ensure that parental traffic is not entering the already over congested school car park.
A new pedestrian gate has been constructed by the vehicular access but is not yet in use until building work completion.

For those parents who walk to school; the longest journey for any parent is 10-15 minutes maximum.

All staff and governors at Bellinge Primary believe that all children should be brought to and collected from school by a responsible delegated adult / older sibling for all pupils in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

Aims of the Travel Plan

This plan intends to outline ways in which staff, governors and parents can contribute to reducing the risk from traffic around the school and continue to encourage parents and children to take a “safer route to school”. We, as a school, wish to support
children and adults in maintaining a healthy lifestyle and this was considered when forming the travel plan. We also intend to continue to encourage and promote a positive approach to walking to school.

The aims of this plan will be shared with all existing parents when finalised and with new parents at the New Intake Parents Meetings. Parents of new children throughout the academic year will also have access to the plan.

This plan is written in accordance with the guidelines produced by Northamptonshire County Council and the Northamptonshire Sustran Team, the DCSF and department for Transport guidance ‘Travelling to School: a good practice guide’ and in conjunction with the project manager from Atkins who is working in partnership with the local authority to encourage safer routes to school.

The plan will be reviewed by governors and amended where necessary as building work progresses.

Transport and Road Safety issues:

- There are at least three major roads for the children to cross when coming to school and returning home depending on where they live. However, these three main roads now have zebra crossings, including Fieldmill Road, the main road which runs along the front of the school.

- There are three ‘sleeping policemen’ situated in Fieldmill Road on both sides of the road, however, most cars drive around them rather than over them. There are also ‘sleeping policemen’ situated in Fishponds Road around the estate but these receive the same response. Apparently the regulations regarding these ‘sleeping policemen’ are governed by bus route legislation.

- There are several minor estate roads which the children need to cross.

- Buses travel through the estate along the front of the school every 15 minutes during peak times. A crossing patrol lady works from 8.30am – 9.00am and from 3.10 – 3.40pm. She is situated next to a bus stop on Fieldmill road outside the school.

- There is a wide footpath at the side of the school that leads to a side gate which many pedestrians use to travel to and from school. This is now a designated cycle path.

- The school has external lighting on the remodelled school site.

- A parade of shops, including two takeaway restaurants, is situated next to the school. Deliveries for these take place at all times of the day.

- The estate itself does not have enough parking spaces in the residential area and there are many cars parked on the roadside. More parking spaces on the estate
would help to solve this problem so that the children did not have to cross estate roads in between parked cars.

- Daily deliveries attempt to enter the school car park, however at present this is extremely difficult (almost impossible) as the limited space for parking is fully utilised by staff car parking needs. Therefore large lorries have to park across the drive area at the Fieldmill Road entrance. (This will be addressed on completion of the build.)

- There are not adequate car parking spaces for staff currently; double car parking is the norm. The school does not have any designated car parking spaces for either disabled, pupils, staff, parents, governors or visitors. (This will be addressed on completion of the build.)

**Pupils' Travel Needs to and From School**

The children travel to school for 9:00am on weekdays. Most of them arrive from 8:50am. A large proportion of the children walk with their parents or elder brothers or sisters. Other children arrive at, and are picked up from, school in cars. These are a minority. A few children arrive at, and travel from, school by bus from other housing estates nearby. (See future Survey results.)

Key Stage 2 children visit the local swimming pool at Lings Forum, Weston Favell during term time. Educational visits are also arranged for the children from Reception to Year 5. All journeys are arranged with parental consent in coaches fitted with seat belts. The coaches park across the driveway on Fieldmill Road.

Children from the local play group visit the school on foot using the school gate which has access to the parade of shops. Reception children visit the playgroup in the same way.

**School Travel Surveys**

(See Appendix 3: Parent Travel Survey.)
(See Appendix 4: Child Travel Survey incorporating how they travel to school and how they would like to travel to school.)
(See Appendix 5: Data from Child Survey)
The data from the child survey and future parent travel surveys, in conjunction with the transport / road safety problems listed above, provide a basis on which to set initiatives and targets in the school’s travel plan.

**Targets and Objectives**

The following targets and objectives, with accompanying problems outlined, form the basis of the school’s travel plan:
Target 1:
To further promote healthy lifestyles for adults and children.

Target 2:
To improve the safety of the journey to and from Bellinge Primary School, particularly for those walking.

- Problem 1: Crossing minor roads or Fieldmill Road when the crossing patrol isn’t present on the zebra crossing.
  Proposed action: Explore the possibility of walking buses run by parents of children at the school. (See Appendix 2)

Target 3:
To increase cycling to school as a safe means for travelling to school.

- Problem 1: Road Safety issues with regards to cycling to school.
  Proposed action: Children take part in new cycling proficiency course. However, the cost of the new scheme is prohibitive for many families.

- Problem 4: The need for all children to wear cycle helmets.
  Proposed action: The children who bring bikes to school must sign an agreement to wear a helmet; The school to approach suppliers to provide helmets at a low cost for the children to buy on site; The school to acquire/allocate funding for lockers for children to store helmets safely.

Target 4:
To provide further learning opportunities for the children in school focussing on ‘Safer routes to school’ and healthy lifestyles.

N.B. The attached plan (See Appendix 1) explains the action needed in greater detail, defined responsibilities and proposed timescales in which to address the above objectives.

Monitoring and Review.

- The Travel Plan will be on the governors’ agenda of the Health And Safety and Premises Committee and so will be continually monitored.
- There will be a review of the Travel Plan by the Full Governing Body on a regular basis.
- The School Council will monitor developments and facilities, meeting at least once per half term.
- There will be ongoing consultation with parents, staff, governors, residents, children to discuss and monitor progress.
- The Children’s Survey will be carried out annually, as will the Parent’s Survey.
- Senior staff will review links with the curriculum.
• The Action Plan will be reviewed and updated by the working party on a regular basis.
• The school will develop further links with the County Council, particularly the Road Safety Officer.

Criteria For Success
• Increased number of walkers and cyclists to school as measured by hands up surveys and formal questionnaires.
• Increased knowledge of road safety awareness

Contact details
The Headteacher and/or the School’s Travel Plan Officer will be the first point of contact and will be responsible for the day to day overview of the plan.

The above can be contacted at

BELINGE PRIMARY SCHOOL
FIELDMILL ROAD
BELINGE
NORTHAMPTON
NN3 9DG

TEL 01604 411534

E-mail head@bellinge.northants-ecl.gov.uk

The above travel plan was fully agreed by this school’s governing body

Signed: _____________________________  Headteacher

__________________________________  Chair of Governors

Date: ______________________________

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