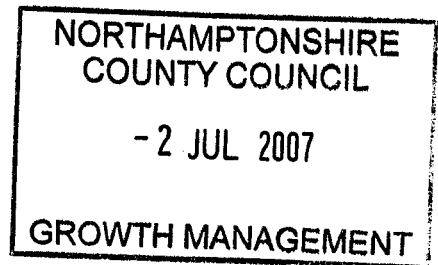


**Brackley Junior School
Manor Road
Brackley
Northants NN13 6EE**

Doc: 613.SS.102B



PROJECT: Proposed new car parking, fencing and refurbishment of the school tennis courts to the rear of the school.

Design and Access Statement and Supporting Statement to the Planning Application:

The Head and governors of Brackley CE Junior School would like to be able to provide a facility to the school community and to the wider town community for additional sporting activities within its school grounds.

A bid has recently been successful in gaining a grant which would enable the school to consider refurbishing disused tennis courts that sit at the back of the school field. To enable the project to succeed, additional works have been included, as well as being vital in ensuring that the tennis courts can be used to their full potential:

1. USE:

- a. It is proposed that the tennis courts are refurbished to be able to offer a minimum of three tennis courts and to use a surface that would be able to be used for a variety of other sports such as football, hockey, and basketball. The courts would be marked out in such a way as to offer this flexibility of use. It is strongly felt that in order to be able to offer this facility, aspects such as security, car parking, and lighting need to be addressed. Without these areas of the project properly considered the offering of the courts would be a much less attractive and less secure facility.

2. LANDSCAPING and APPEARANCE:

- a. There will be no formal landscaping but it is proposed to plant hawthorn and/or similar bushes, particularly on the new section of fence on the playing field, to help with security and to assist with the wildlife nesting within such a natural open environment.
- b. In order for the courts to be used safely and with total security, the fences around the remaining part of the school field need to be upgraded. The unsecure perimeter includes that bounded by the health centre, and it is vital that trespassing onto the field ceases and that no damage can be done to the courts.
- c. The proposal for a 2.4m high fence has become necessary for long term security. The design has been based upon the installation of the original palisade fencing and finished in green powder coated paint.
- d. Flood lighting around the court would enable the courts to be used with flexibility during the evenings throughout the year particularly with the better weather surfaces available.
- e. For reasons of school and pupil security, the fence around the front of the school along Manor Road needs to be improved to give better visibility onto the school and to ensure that members of the public entering the school grounds during school hours are do so under tightly controlled procedures. It is proposed to use

a more aesthetic design of a round top tubular pale up to 2 metres high, to allow the existing shrubbery to grow back through. Vehicular and pedestrian gates would be of a similar design.

Pruning of the boundary growth is much more easily maintained to a strict line. Again the finished colour will be dark green which we feel is the most appropriate colour for this type of installation.

3. **LAYOUT:** The layout of the tennis courts and the boundary fencing is as existing and no further consideration is required. The lighting is being based upon the existing installation at Brackley Tennis Club which should meet the standards of the Lawn Tennis Association.
4. **SCALE:** The scale of the proposal for fencing on the frontage has been chosen to reflect adequate security together with aesthetic value to the street scene.
5. **ACCESS:**
 - a. The access to the school will not be altered. Financial constraints will not allow this. With the increased use of the courts and field there will be a need for extra car parking at the front of the school. The proposals in the planning application should increase the parking area to a level that would mean that during the week there is sufficient capacity for staff and visitors to park and that at weekends there is enough capacity for members of the public using the courts to park.
 - b. To maximise the use of valuable space, particularly adjacent to the school entrance doors, a scheme of double parking is being adopted. Paired members of staff will share each double bay to ensure efficient use and ease of parking.

There are 12 existing spaces with no disabled parking, which are not to standard. The proposal is for 44 spaces, (16 of these doubled up) and 3 disabled spaces.
 - c. Adequate disabled and visitor parking will also be provided within the scheme, which has been lacking in the past.
 - d. The new path and access to the tennis courts will be installed between the parking and sports facilities. Disabled and partially able bodied people will be able to enjoy the open facilities that are being provided.
6. **TRANSPORT LINKS:** There is no proposal to arrange transport links. The school is within the Brackley Town boundary and pedestrian use will be encouraged. Parking is proposed to allow for those travelling from the extremities of the town.

30 June 2007