

# Morton Wykes Kramer

## **Supporting Statement**

### **Proposed alterations and extension to The Engineering Facility, Danetre School, Daventry.**

#### ***Rationale***

The Education and Skills Bill, which received its second reading in the House of Commons in January 2008, will increase the minimum age for leaving school to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015. Those who want to leave education will be required to undertake skills-based training. Like many schools Danetre School has recognized that it will need to increase the scope of its provision. Currently its training in Engineering and other skills based education has been restricted to GCSE examinations and to date no Post 16 education has been offered. The aim is to expand their provision into the Post 16 area by the provision of new courses in Construction and Engineering to encompass A level and NVQ qualifications.

The school has also recognized that this change in the Education and Skills Bill will also result in increased student numbers. If the school is to accommodate both an increase in its scope of provision and student numbers then additional classroom and workshops will be required for these students.

#### ***Proposal***

The proposed alterations to the engineering part of the facility are to enable the creation of a dedicated suite for GCSE and A level students. It will enable an existing computer room to be connected to a new room that will house CAD/CAM machines for rapid prototyping and this will then connect to a conventional workshop which in turn will be directly served by engineering technicians. Thus all aspects of the engineering curriculum will be delivered from this area.

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To achieve these changes the two buildings will be linked and a new entrance will be constructed for the Facility.

A consequence of these changes will be that the Construction skills workshop will need to be relocated. This workshop is used to teach brick laying and other associated construction skills. Its current location in the courtyard prevents new materials being delivered and will block the redevelopment of the Engineering facilities. By their very nature bricks, sand, cement and wood are bulky items and the workshop should ideally be located where loading can be easily achieved and old materials removed. It is proposed to construct a new brick workshop adjacent to the car park against the existing west elevation. This will involve the loss of some six car parking spaces. The workshop activities also create an abrasive dust that can quickly damage precision machine tools hence the need to isolate and keep this workshop separate from the main workshops.

The proposal also includes the overhaul of the vehicle maintenance workshops. Currently carried out in what was a mini bus garage, there is no direct link to the other engineering skills facilities, thus students cannot easily take items for welding or machining without leaving the building. This obviously compromises staff supervision. The workshop is also cramped and this restricts the number of students that can undertake this activity. The proposal is to double the size of the workshop and directly connect it to the other facilities.

The school recognizes the loss of car parking on the site that this proposal will cause, but in line with many other employers it is investigating car share proposals with its staff to reduce the overall numbers of cars brought to the site and hence does not wish to further increase or replace its car parking provision.

## Reference

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/educationandskills.html>

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