Kingsthorpe Community College, Northampton

Planning Application
Supporting Statement

Address:
Boughton Green Road
Northampton
NN2 7HR

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.

The playgroup at Kingsthorpe Community College is currently using accommodation on the school site and although the accommodation is not ideal, the playgroup is very well supported and would like to be able to accommodate more children than the premises allow. The playgroup is the only facility of its type in the area and it is important to the users, the school and the community that the provision continues.

There is however a new school being provided for Kingsthorpe Community College on the playing fields adjacent to the existing school and when this is available, all the existing school accommodation, including the area being used by the playgroup will have to be demolished.

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 Playgroup 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 Kingsthorpe Community College the mobile would remain in the ownership of the County Council but would be leased to the playgroup who would take full financial responsibility for the building.

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

The site of the new school is owned by Northamptonshire County Council and the new school building is being completed as part of the NCC/PFI contract. The site has an area of 103040 sq m and is within a predominantly residential area.

The site is appropriate for a Secondary School and the proposal to place the mobile on site will not prohibit any school activities. A small low fenced grass area will be provided adjacent to the mobile as part of the early year's provision.

Staffing Implications:

The staffing at the existing playgroup 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 playgroup operates are currently 9.20 am to 12noon and 12.30pm 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 playgroup. The playgroup has been operating on the school site for many years and is used by parents living in the immediate neighbourhood. At public meetings and consultations on the new Secondary school, there was a clear expectation from people attending that the playgroup would be able to continue.

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

Trees to be felled:
No trees are required to be felled prior to the installation of the mobile.

Flood Risk Assessment:
A flood risk assessment was completed for the site prior to the submission of the planning application for the new school.

Land Contaminants:
All contaminant surveys were completed prior to the building of the submission of the planning application for the new school.
Vehicle access:
Access to the site will be via the access provided for the new school.

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 will be provided for the new school. Connections for the mobile services will be within the main school site

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

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