Job Ref: 4364

4th October 2007

PLANNING SUPPORT / DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

Proposed Extension to form First Floor Dance / Media Study Area

at

Masque Theatre
Latimer Community Arts College
Castle Way
Barton Seagrave
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN15 6SW

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PROJECT

Proposed extension to form first floor dance / media study area at the Masque Theatre, Latimer Community Arts College, Castle Way, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northamptonshire NN15 6SW, including minor associated external works as shown in the submitted drawings:

4364/01A Survey as Existing
4364/02A Scheme as Proposed: Plans / Elevations / Typical Section
4364/03A Site Location Plan

A strategic decision was made in June 2006 by the Kettering Learning Partnership (Head Teachers of the secondary schools and Senior Directors of Tresham Institute) that Latimer Arts College and Tresham Institute will be the lead centres to deliver the Creative and Media Diploma to all the partner schools from September 2008. This forms a key part of the vision for the 14 to 19 strategy within the town and the six schools and FE college are co-operating fully in planning and delivery of the new courses. Latimer Arts College and Tresham Institute already have studio theatres based at both centres seating 200 people and fully equipped for a range of amateur and professional performances, with full box office facilities. Other relevant facilities within the two establishments include performance, dance and recording studios, as well as facilities for film / video editing and sound recording. Tresham Institute’s new Windmill Avenue campus will be used to deliver the other disciplines of the Diploma. Latimer Arts College is currently used as a centre for examination in Dance by a number of the partners and also hosts CPD events and workshops.

Tresham Institute have the limited capacity available within their new facility to deliver their aspects of the Diploma with the addition of further equipment, however Latimer’s existing spaces are already operating at high capacity and need some updating. Additional space will be necessary to deliver the Diploma as the pilot extends through 2008 and beyond.

The proposal is for Latimer Arts College to develop a further multi-purpose performing arts space with facilities for media production. In addition to the obvious solution for the delivery of the disciplines in performing arts, the space will enable CPD to take place for staff both within the consortium and with other linked consortia. Opportunities for enterprise education can be introduced for the students working in a commercial environment alongside an extended programme of visiting artists (the School is a ‘spoke school’ for work-related learning and enterprise).

EXISTING SITE

The site on which Latimer Community Arts College is located is owned by Northamptonshire County Council. The site is within a predominantly residential area.

DESIGN APPROACH

It is proposed to locate the additional dance / media study area (126m²) above the existing ground floor dance studio which is presently attached to the Masque Theatre by a ground floor link. The new first floor area will incorporate it’s own entrance lobby / landing areas plus associated storage. The proposal includes a platform lift to the first floor area plus all other DDA requirements.

The appearance of the proposed extension will echo the design of the Masque Theatre including facing brickwork, roof tiles, aluminium powder coated windows and doors, exposed steelwork, fascia / soffit etc., all to match existing. This will also match the design approach of the recently constructed Sixth Form Centre within this rear courtyard area. The design approach / location has been carefully considered both internally and externally in order to both integrate the proposals within the main body of the School and minimise the impact of the new build within the context of the local surroundings.

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The location of the proposed extension will utilise land which is presently unused. External hardstandings will be integrated into the existing. The design of the extension has no detrimental effect on emergency travel routes / fire escape procedures etc.

As stated above the proposal accommodates a further ground floor entrance and associated travel routes (platform lift) for people with disabilities and considered to meet the spirit of the Disability Discrimination Act as well as meeting other regulatory and statutory requirements.

VEHICULAR ACCESS / CAR PARKING

Vehicular access to the site is via Castle Way and there will be no alterations to the existing entrance or car parking facilities.

PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Pedestrian access to and around the site will remain as existing. The proposals for the entrance of the additional accommodation will meet DDA requirements and link the access to the existing footpath network.

SERVICE IMPLICATIONS

All necessary mains statutory services exist on the site. It is not anticipated at this stage that any of the incoming services will need to be upgraded although this will be confirmed in due course following the Building Services Engineer’s investigations.

SITE ACCESS DURING CONSTRUCTION PERIOD

Construction access to the site will be via Castle Way and it is expected that no deliveries will be accepted to site during school start / finish periods and other break times. Weekend construction is not proposed at this stage to limit the impact on the local area. Normal working hours will be implemented.

Contractor’s site and compound areas will be determined and agreed between CDM Co-ordinator / School / Northamptonshire County Council. Contractor’s vehicles / plant and delivery vehicles will be guided by a banksman to the compound / site areas. The Contractor will be required to control noise, dust, mud on roads, access etc.

Work will be undertaken during both term and holiday periods, with careful planning and consideration being taken to avoid, as far as possible, disruption to everyday school activities.

DEMOLITIONS

No demolitions are required on site prior to construction.

TREES

No trees will be removed as a result of the extension.

FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

The area of land does not fall within the Flood Plain, therefore no flood risk assessment required.

LAND CONTAMINANTS

No contaminants anticipated although trial holes / sampling will be undertaken prior to construction. None found on adjacent Sixth Form Centre.