

Supporting Statement

Little Harrowden Primary School

School Lane

Little Harrowden

Northamptonshire NN9 5BN

Planning Application

New Extension

to accommodate a

Classroom, Breakfast Club facility, and Staff Office

Status: **PLANNING APPLICATION**

Revisions and Document Status:

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| Doc No: 14.790.301 Supporting Statement. | | |
| Rev A | Preliminary issue for client approval. | 20 July 2014 |
| Rev B | Revisions and Planning issue. | 25 July 2014 |

Proposal

The School:

The Little Harrowden Primary School provides educational needs and facilities from a local catchment area and we are proud of the school's heritage which spans over 350 years. It is important to us that the village of Little Harrowden maintains a primary school for its children. Over the past few years the facilities within Little Harrowden have been reduced and the Governors, Headteacher and staff feel it is very important to secure the sustainability of the village school.

The Governors and Headteacher at Little Harrowden Primary have recognised the need for wrap around care provision for working parents who chose to send their children to our school. Without this provision, it is possible that the school would experience a falling roll and in the long term become unsustainable.

The development proposal reflects the need to further community facilities within the surrounding area; the proposed building would enable a new classroom to be built within the existing site, thus freeing a space which could be used for wrap around care and also for use by village groups.

Additionally, with kitchen facilities, it would allow us to meet the new curriculum and teach the children other life skills. Due to the size of the site and limited expansion possibilities, we remain committed to creating a village school community ethos.

The site is a rural setting with views over open countryside. A public footpath is routed through the school grounds. Boundary fences and access gates have previously been provided, through consultation with NCC and the impact is being kept to a minimum. Trees and hedging surround the site but no feature will be affected by the proposal.

The extension infills an unused corner space bounded by two perimeter walls of the existing school building. All existing services for water supply and drainage outfall will be used within the existing capacity.

North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy 2008

Policy 13: General Sustainable Development Principles

Development should meet the needs of residents and businesses without compromising the ability of future generations to enjoy the same quality of life that the present generation aspires to. Development should:

Meet needs:

a) Incorporate flexible designs for buildings and their settings, including access to amenity space, enabling them to be adapted to future needs and to take into account the needs of all users;

School: While the usage of the buildings is planned for the immediate future, it is a key feature that they will be flexible and may be re-designated as projects proceed in the coming few years.

For school projects to function with the number of children on the roll, additional facility is required for curriculum and to give additional educational space.

b) Seek to design out antisocial behaviour, crime and reduce the fear of crime by applying the principles of the "Secured by Design" scheme;

School: The building is reasonably secure in this village location and crime has not been an issue at the school. The school is bounded by residential premises and where access is vulnerable through a public footpath, fencing and better styled gates are in place. No additional security measures are planned.

c) Maintain and improve the provision of accessible local services and community services, whilst focusing uses that attract a lot of visitors within the town centres;

School: The building is in the village centre with a bus service. It is a primary school and with little need of high visitor numbers. Children are brought mainly on foot with a few by car.

d) Have a satisfactory means of access and provide for parking, servicing and manoeuvring in accordance with adopted standards;

School: The building is accessed from School Lane from the main road through the village. There is staff parking on site, but visitors have parking on the road. The project will not cause any further impact on those parking spaces.

e) Be designed to take full account of the transport user hierarchy of pedestrian-cyclist-public transport-private vehicle, and incorporate measures to contribute to an overall target of 20% modal shift in developments of over 200 dwellings and elsewhere 5% over the plan period;

School: Pedestrian and cycle transport is not required for the users of this Primary School, as the pupils are of an age not necessarily being allowed on the main roads.

f) Not lead to the loss of community facilities, unless it can be demonstrated that they are no longer needed by the community they serve and are not needed for any other community use, or that the facility is being relocated and improved to meet the needs of the new and existing community.

School: The additional space will increase the facilities for community use. It will provide space for pre-school hours, additional rooms for teachers, parents and other community use once established layouts are agreed.

g) Not lead to the loss of open space or recreation facilities, unless a site of equivalent quality and accessibility can be provided, serviced and made available to the community prior to use of the existing site ceasing.

School: The extensions are within a natural un-used area, and no recreation space will be lost.

Raise standards

h) Be of a high standard of design, architecture and landscaping, respect and enhance the character of its surroundings and be in accordance with the Environmental Character of the area;

School: The extensions are attached to the existing buildings and will not be seen from the road or any adjacent residential property. The materials will match the existing structure but the scope to have high architectural design and interest is not warranted.

Small detail to make a more pleasing elevation is the use of banded brickwork and stone cills to match the existing colours.

i) Create a strong sense of place by strengthening the distinctive historic and cultural qualities and townscape of the towns and villages through its design, landscaping and use of public art;

School: Not applicable.

j) Be designed to promote healthier lifestyles and for people to be active outside their homes and places of work;

School: Not applicable.

k) Allow for travel to home, shops, work and school on foot and by cycle and public transport.

School: No changes to the existing arrangements are needed.

Protect assets

l) Not result in an unacceptable impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties or the wider area, by reason of noise, vibration, smell, light or other pollution, loss of light or overlooking;

School: None of these issues are compromised nor have significant impact on these aspects.

m) Be constructed and operated using a minimum amount of non-renewable resources including where possible the reuse of existing structures and materials;

School: It is an extension to an existing building and needs will be at a minimum. The use of high insulating materials will assist with the carbon footprint.

n) Not have an adverse impact on the highway network and will not prejudice highway safety;

School: It does not. No additional staff or numbers of children will occur.

o) Conserve and enhance the landscape character, and biodiversity of the environment making reference to the Environmental Character Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy;

School: The extensions are to buildings sited within the grounds away from general view, and does not add to, nor take away any character.

p) Not sterilise known mineral reserves or degrade soil quality;

School: It does not.

q) Not cause a risk to (and where possible enhance) the quality of the underlying groundwater or surface water.

School: It does not.

Photographs of Existing:



Panorama 01 – Rear Elevation