

Ecton Village Mobile Planning Statement PS01

Ecton Village Primary School, West Street, Ecton, NN6 0QF

Proposal: Application for Planning Permission for a Single Temporary Mobile Classroom.

The application consists of the following.

- Location plan LP88384
- Floor Plans D88384
- Planning Statement PS01

Ecton Village Primary School:

The Primary school sits in the north of Northamptonshire and its catchment area covers the settlements of Ecton and the surrounding area. Ecton Primary currently operates with 75 pupils in three mixed-age classes. The school has previously had a published admission number (PAN) of 11, but this was increased to 15 a few years ago in order to meet the demand for primary pupil places in the village and surrounding area.

As year groups with 8, 9 and 10 pupils leave the school and the younger groups of 11 – 15 children in each year move through, there is going to be a shortage of teaching space. The school building has capacity for 81 pupils, with three classrooms of c. 36, 38 and 46 square metres. The minimum size for a class of 30 pupils is 49 m². The school will not be able to accommodate a mixed Year 4 / 5 / 6 classes in one room and would also like to be able to avoid the current arrangement of mixing Reception and Year 1.

The pupil numbers in Sept 2014 are as follows:

Reception / Year 1: 15 + 8 = 23 in the class

Year 2 / 3: 11 + 14 = 25 in the class

Year 4 / 5 / 6: 8 + 9 + 10 = 27 in the class

There continue to be young families moving into the village; there are 4 new houses under construction next door to the school; and another 6 or 7 new houses are nearly completed. Not all of the current children on roll are from Ecton Village itself, so the opportunity is being taken to review and consult on the published admission number for future years. It is proposed to implement a revised PAN of 13 with effect from September 2016.

The likely future pupil numbers and pattern of organisation would therefore be:

	Sept 14	Sept 15	Sept 16	Sept 17
Reception	15	15	13	13
Years 1 / 2	19	23	30	28
Years 3 / 4	22	25	19	23
Years 5 / 6	19	18	22	25
	75	81	84	89

Proposal:

The enclosed application seeks planning permission for a single mobile for initially five years. The school is currently organised into 3 classrooms and the single mobile will be utilised daily to enable the school to deliver an effective curriculum. A mobile classroom is required to provide the fourth teaching space. This will allow the school to organise with four classes, operate a discrete Reception class that suits the existing classroom sizes. The mobile therefore needs to be installed on site.

The County Council currently has limited capacity to undertake building projects where mobile classrooms are on site due to significant pressures on the capital programme. There is rising demand for primary school places across the county and school expansions are underway to provide an additional 10,000 places by September 2015.

The proposed building is of standard single storey mobile classroom construction; as used throughout the county. The elevations are perpendicular surmounted by a low pitch roof. The roof is finished in grey felt with a small overhang, discharging rainwater into a black PVC gutter and down pipes. The height of the roof is approximately 3.m from ground level. The walls are refinished in a stippled weatherproof coating, all painted in dark Green (12 B 25) colour. All windows have white uPVC frames and are double glazed in clear float glass. A wooden slatted skirt is fitted between ground and floor level, the slats being horizontal.

The school has had a mobile classroom in the past, but it was removed prior to the more recent growth in numbers. The previous location is no longer suitable as it would be positioned under a large and established tree as well as removing a new refurbished play area.

We have looked at the school site and consider locating the mobile two meters in from the school wall as shown on the Location Plan LP88384 would reduce the impact on the school play ground

and enable efficient access to services (drainage, power etc). This position would also reduce the impact to the main school access gate, which would be needed in the case of emergency. The grass area to the rear of the school was rejected due to the uneven lay of the ground and the extreme difficulty of positioning the mobile due to the close vicinity of a number of established trees.

Planning Justification:

Section 38(6) of the 2004 Act requires that planning applications be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Therefore, the enclosed proposal should be judged against those relevant policies from the Wellingborough Local Plan (2007) and the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy, as well as the content of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012) where applicable.

The Wellingborough Local Plan Proposals Map confirms that there are no designations relating to the element of the site where the proposed mobile is to be located. The area does not sit within a conservation area.

The NPPF sets out those roles which planning system is required to perform in order to ensure the delivery of sustainable development. The application contained herein will enable the improvement of the education offer in Northamptonshire and will ensure that the school remains an attractive option to parents who are considering the educational needs of their children.

The proposal is clearly line with the Core Planning Principles set out at Para 17 of the Framework. The Government attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing communities. In addition, Para 72 of the framework encourages local planning authorities to take a pro-active, positive and collaborative approach to widening the choice of education. Para 72 also requires LPA's to afford great weight to the need to expand, create or alter schools, the enclosed application is therefore in conformity with the Governments planning and education objectives.

The proposal will improve the education offer for the aforementioned settlements from which the Primary school draws its pupils. This is in line with the vision and objectives of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy.

To supplement the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy, the respective local authorities have published a Sustainable Design SPD (2009). Whilst the content of this document has been carefully considered through the design of this proposal and it is considered that the proposed mobile will clearly not change the amenity enjoyed by those properties which neighbour the site.

The materials, as specified on the enclosed plans, have been carefully considered in the context of the site.

Conclusion:

The Primary school is a key piece of local infrastructure which needs to remain an attractive place for parents to send their children in their formative years. It is clearly important that the school's facilities meet today's modern educational requirements and provide a safe and attractive learning environment for pupils and teachers alike.

It is therefore considered that the enclosed application, which conforms to both national and local planning policy, should be seen favourably and approved without delay in line with the presumption as set out at Para 14 of the Framework.

I trust that the above sufficiently justifies the enclosed planning application and provides the information required to deliver a positive decision.

Should you wish to discuss the above or have any questions in relation to the enclosures then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrew Myers
LGSS - Property Services
March 2015