

Design and Access

Kingswood offers programmes to schools and colleges aimed at taking learning outside the classroom. Closely linked to the National Curriculum participants are encouraged to explore familiar topics in a new manner such as ICT, Environmental and Languages. There is also a strong emphasis on sport and fitness with young people taking part on a large number of water, land and ropes based activities to build individual confidence and foster team-working.

This application is for 1 unit of multiple occupation for staff, an Activity Barn for the use of students and a Plant Room building to house boilers for the Kingswood Activity Centre in Sheffield Road, Penistone.

Activity Barn

At present, there isn't a lot provided for students at the Peaks Venture site when the weather is wet. The provision of the Activity Barn will remedy this. There are 2 rooms with high ceilings for ball games etc and one of the rooms will have an *artificial rock climbing wall*.

In addition to this, a new reception has been planned for. Because of the location of the Barn in relation to the Car/Coach park, it makes it easier for the reception to be the first point of contact between the centre staff, teachers and students.

There are 6 new class rooms in the Activity Barn. Each of these will seat 16 students. Access to these is via the main reception at one end of the building, or via entrances on both sides of the building, closer to the main complex. The main building is where the dormitories for the students and teachers are located, as well as the Dining room and other amenities.

The New Activity Barn will also house the Medical room which will have a bed and its own toilet facility.

There will also be a new toilet with disabled access.

Toilets for male and female students have also been included in the Barn. These will not only provide facilities for students using the Barns class rooms and high ceiling play areas, but also the students using the outside apparatus (Zip Wire, climbing tower etc). At present, the students have to make there way back to the main building to use the toilets, but having the barn will make the toilets that much closer to those outside.

The site where the Activity Barn is to be situated is currently occupied by a large car/coach park and a Boiler house with a large chimney. This boiler house will be demolished as part of the plan. The car/coach park is of such a large size that the amount of area that will be taken up by the Barn will not affect the centres ability to cope with vehicles using the site. Although we've stated that it is a coach as well as a car park, coaches are not parked on site for very long. The coaches are used to drop the students off at the beginning of their stay and return to pick them up at the end.

Plant Room

The new plant room building will sit alongside the Barn. It will be easily accessible from the car park which will allow contractors to directly access it without having to wander around the centre.

We have shown on the plan, that a rack of 3x LPG cylinders will sit behind and feed the plant room. The area the rack occupies has been included in the fee for the application.

The existing boilers are coal fired. The boilers that will be housed in the new Plant room building will be more efficient than that which they replace. This will be more kind to the environment and be more cost effective for the centre. The new building will also be less obtrusive and unsightly than the building it replaces.

Accommodation Block

The third part of the planning application is for a new building to house staff that run the centre and its activities. The new building can hold a maximum of 112 staff in rooms of 4 beds (2x bunk beds). These rooms all have en suite facilities.

We have also planned in a lounge with soft seating for staff to use in the evenings and a kitchen/dining room. There is a dining room in the main building, but if staff would prefer to prepare their own meals, this kitchen/diner can be used.

As I stated in the Planning Statement, at present, the staff are housed in accommodation off site. This is costly. It is also more effective to have the staff on site in case of any problems that may occur out of the usual working hours. It is also more cost efficient.

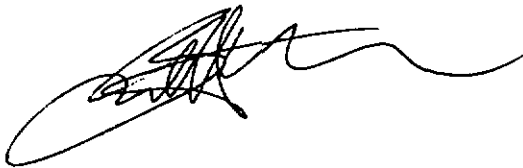
The new Accommodation Block will be situated away from the main building and will be accessed via a path between two wooded areas.

The building is on a single level and is well insulated to keep heating bills to a minimum and be kinder to the environment. This building will have a green exterior with brown UPVC windows to blend in with its surroundings.

Wheeled bins will be used for waste disposal and will be situated next to the new Accommodation unit. These will then be wheeled to the collection point with the other waste, on the day of waste collection.

These works are part of an ongoing refurbishment program that Kingswood is undertaking at the Peaks Venture, Penistone location.

These improvements will give a greater level of use to the students, and increase the activities on offer. The heating for the centre will be improved, be more cost effective and kinder to the environment than at present. The on site accommodation for the staff will also give a more cost effective solution for the staff and increase the facilities on offer to them, with their own kitchen/diner and lounge. The site will also benefit from the appearance of the new buildings and the removal of the old Boiler Room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brett Walker', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

BRETT WALKER

On behalf of

Kingswood Learning and Leisure