

Design & Access Supporting Statement

Proposed two classroom extension

At

Thurlstone Primary School, Royd Moor Rd, Sheffield, South Yorkshire S36 9RD For

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council



North Elevation (NTS)

Design & Access Supporting Statement

Introduction

This Design and Access Statement is to support the application for the proposed extension of Thurlstone Primary School to provide additional classroom accommodation. Barnsley MBC has a statutory duty to provide appropriate and localised schooling for pupils of differing ages, abilities and backgrounds. The strategic management of those pupil places carried out by BMBC relies on three sources of data i) Birth data ii) housing developments and iii) historic patterns of attendance.

Barnsley in recent years has experienced an increase in the birth rate which is predicted to continue for some years yet. The current and predicted increase has already impacted on the Authorities Primary school infrastructure and its ability to provide adequate school places. With limited public funds available the Authority, working closely with schools and Head Teachers, has adopted a multifaceted approach to ensure the best use is made of the existing school stock.

Areas within Barnsley encompassing the Thurstone and Millhouse wards are predicted to have a shortage in capacity at the start of the 2016-17 Academic years, which is predicted to continue in the following years. Thurlstone Primary has been identified as having suitable grounds to allow a significant new extension that will help the Authority in dealing with the shortfall of pupil places.

In September 2014 the school increased their admission numbers from 16 to 25 in order to meet the forecast shortfall of pupil places in the Thurlstone/Millhouse area. From September 2015 the school took an additional 9 pupils to their reception class. The permanent increase to 25 will take place in September 2016. This increase in pupil places will increase the schools capacity from 112 to 175 by September 2022.

This statement sets the context and explains the proposed scheme providing justification for the approach adopted. It is accompanied by photographs, maps and plans in order to illustrate and demonstrate an understanding of the client's needs and that of the public.

The statement includes site analysis, use, details of illustrative external appearance, sustainability of the proposal and the required description of access and improvements set out in the proposed design.

This supporting statement is in accordance with Government Circular 01/06 'Guidance on Changes to the Development Control System'. It reflects the following stages as set out in CABE's document 'Design and Access Statements – How to Write, Read and Use them'.

Site Appraisal



Aerial site plan (NTS)

Context – Location and site description

The Thurlstone Primary School situated west of the town centre and can be located off Royd Moor Road. The site is currently being used as a Primary School and has been for over a century. The school was re-organised in 1988 and 2006 involving several alterations and extensions to the West of the original building and north elevation. The development area is located to the North & West of the school building. The development site is surrounded by residential and community buildings; justifying the necessity of the proposed development that would be appropriate for the area.

The original school building is of traditional stone construction with latter felt flat roof extensions formed of stone and pebble dash render. The original roof coverings are of natural slate and the existing windows are predominantly white UPVC.



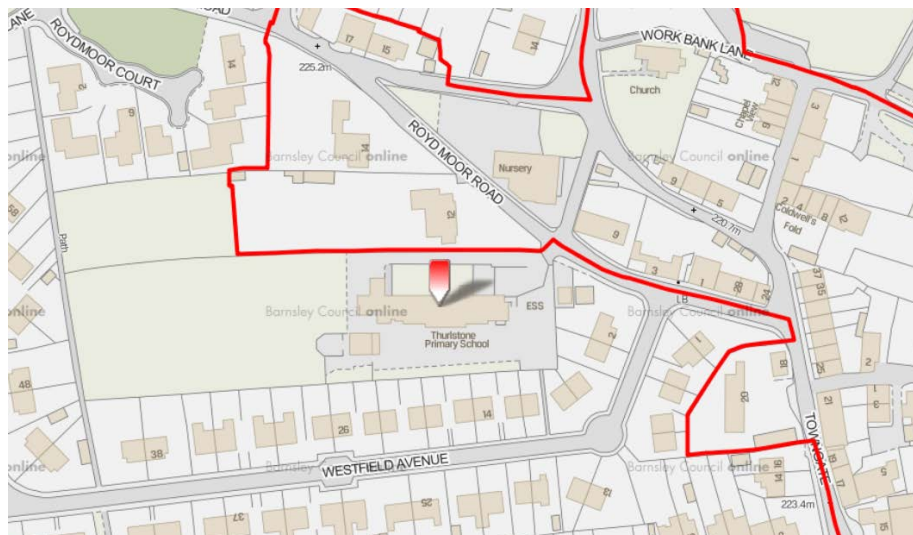
Image of the South Elevation (NTS)

The remaining area is generally open with playgrounds to south and playing fields to the west. There are a number of trees and bushes located around the site boundary and school pond, none of which are subject to Tree Preservation Orders. Despite the age of the main building it is not thought to be a school of significant architectural importance. It is however apparent that the south elevation holds character that should be retained and therefore shall not be affected by the development. Consequently the development aims to enhance the existing north elevation which has been neglected.



Images of the North Elevation (NTS)

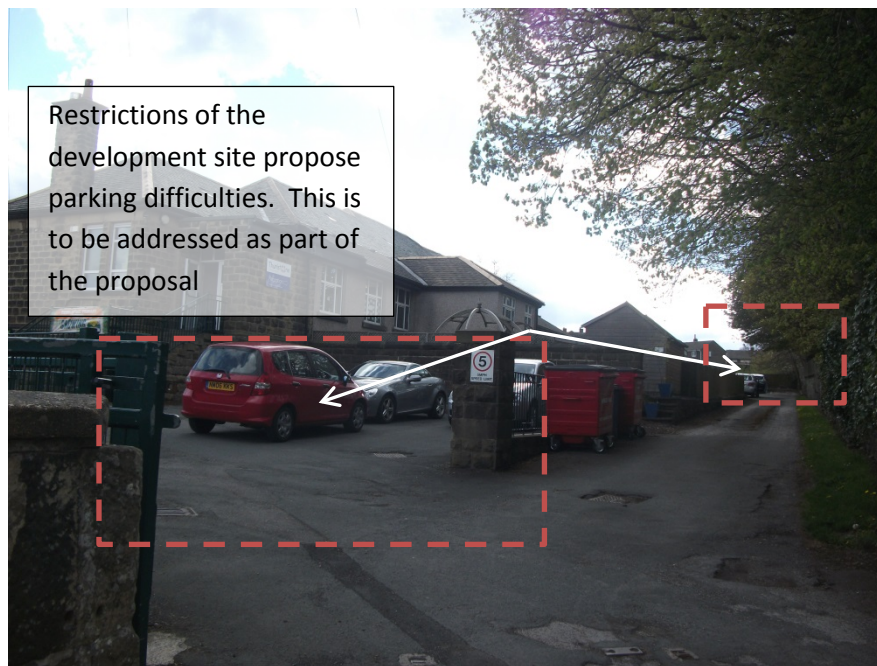
The site is located within close proximity of the Pennines, approximately eight miles from Barnsley town centre. The village is located within the public transport infrastructure. There are a number of local amenities nearby, together with shops and social activities associated with the village which are to be aided by the development. It is apparent that the development site is not situated within a conservation area.



Conservation Area boundary (NTS) Thurlstone is situated outside the designated area

Access

The complex topography of the site has a level change of over 2 metres along the length of the building rising from east to west. The northern site boundary along the existing access road has a 2.3m high stone wall. Vehicles can access the site from the north east entrance off Royd Moor Road. There are currently 2 locations for staff parking within site (6 at the top of the access road and 3 at the bottom) holding approximately 9No vehicles spaces. The current pedestrian access to the school is via the main building entrance on Royd Moor Road. The development proposes to rearrange the current parking provision within close proximity to the site entrance and improve access routes for pedestrians. Street parking is limited due to the narrow roads surrounding the site.



View of existing parking from north east site entrance

Social & Economic Context

There is no potential for overlooking or overshadowing of existing properties due the position and scale of the proposed development and its proximity to neighbouring properties. The sites location makes it suitable for use of all the local facilities and will not have a detrimental impact on these facilities. The design of the proposals will enhance the schools appearance and teaching capabilities improving the attractiveness of available facilities for the existing community and future investors.

Planning Policy

The application is compliant with relevant national and regional policies. All Planning Policies as identified in the Local Development Framework Development Policies Document have been considered during the design of the scheme.

General Design Standards

The layout and orientation of the building has been designed to fit in with the adjacent buildings and surrounding site area, with the transition between the existing and proposed areas designed to

make access and egress more suitable for all users. The pedestrian and public access / entrance is to be improved by the development proposals.

Scale

The size of the new building is felt justified in relation to its surroundings and adjacent buildings. The design is based upon the facilities function with standard heights and legislative horizontal dimensions internally. Careful consideration has been made when considering the size of the new building in relation to the existing building which it adjoins.

Materials

The materials and colour scheme has been chosen to ensure that the new development is in keeping with its surroundings. The proposed material choices of stone, render and hipped slate roofs are to compliment and improve the existing building. Decorative spandrel panels are to be included in the window design to provide interest to the elevations.

The layout of the proposal has been designed to wrap around the north elevation improving the external appearance of the façade and to provide high quality spaces to suit the educational needs of the school. The proposed connection between the existing building and the development are to create an unnoticeable transition between the old and new as the render will extend to cover the existing pebble dash. A retaining wall to be erected along the access road constructed out of stone will provide adequate provision for parking at one end of the site and minimise the need for vehicular traffic along the access road.

Space around and between buildings

The co-ordination of new development and associated landscaping has been designed to integrate the building into its wider context providing a pleasant and safe environment. All open spaces are linked together by the extension to form a high quality play space. The West Riding block is to be demolished as part of the site improvements to facilitate the development.



View of West Riding Block to be demolished as part of the development

Sustainable Building Design

The design has been considered so that window openings utilise natural light and the materials used reduce heat loss. The use of solar PVs shall be used on the proposed south facing roof pitches to maximise renewable energy production.

Safe Places

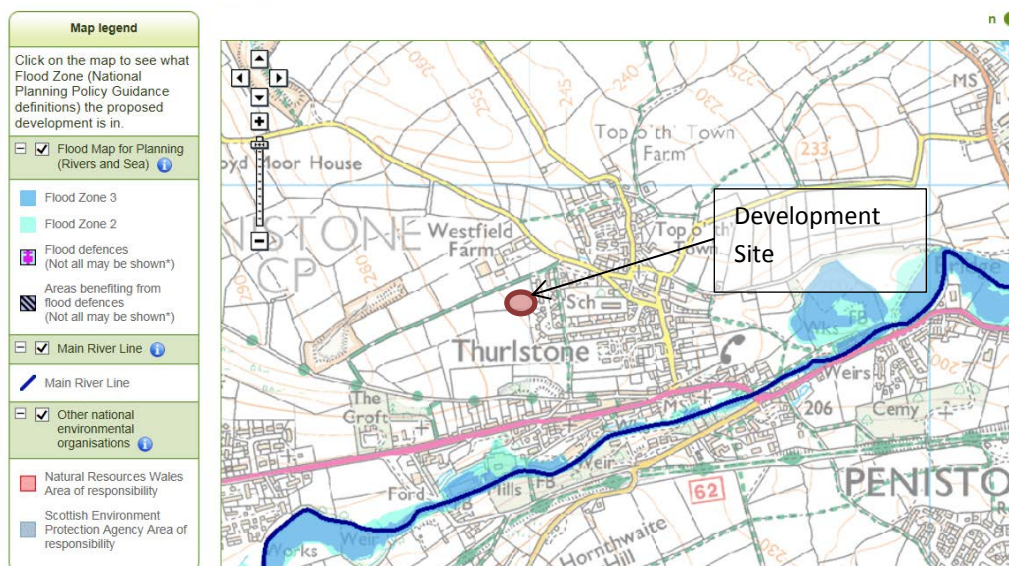
The site currently has existing external lighting to pedestrian routes and it is proposed to improve lighting to access routes where possible to suit the new layout of the building.

Existing Community Facilities

The development will not result in the loss of any facilities in community use.

Flood risk and Development

The development is not situated within a wetland as shown on the Environment Agency map (below). It is not located within a flood plain.



Environment Agency Maps - Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (NTS) 09.09.2015

Conclusion

The site is currently too small to accommodate the pupil places required in Thurlstone over the coming years. The proposal will enhance the provision of additional teaching space and high quality play space for both pupils and teachers. All effort has been made to provide a high quality environment to suit educational needs of the school whilst assisting the Authority in dealing with the shortfall of pupil places.