

Access Statement Wombwell library

Introduction

This design and access statement is to support an application for full planning approval for an extension to Wombwell Library.

Wombwell Library is located in the town centre and whilst not currently listed is constructed in stone and has some considerable architectural merit. The building and main entrance, which is stepped and unsuitable for disabled entry, faces onto Station Road. The rear of the building faces onto a large open area, previously an open market area, which is now used as a car park.

Disabled access to the building is facilitated from this area through an entry system via a small uncovered ramp which has been added to the building. The car park which is steeply sloping provides accommodation for approximately 77 cars.

New Extension

The proposed extension is located to the rear of the library on part of the existing car park and is intended to provide a facility that will be used by local societies and groups for a variety of purposes. The extension also provides the opportunity to create a new distinctive much needed entrance to the library from the car park. A fully accessible disabled entrance to the new facility and adjacent disabled parking are also provided.

The accommodation provided by the extension comprises a main hall with a moveable wall that enables the former to be divided into two separate spaces. Ancillary accommodation provided includes storage, toilet provision, a kitchen and an office.

Whilst the extension is linked to the library via the existing rear door the intention is that the extension could operate independently outside the opening hours of the library.

This application also covers the introduction of solar panels on the existing library roof as shown on drawing number AL(0)05

Consultation

The proposed extension has been discussed with the local ward councillors and has their full support.

Preliminary discussions have also been held with the relevant planning officer and conservation officer and the design has been amended to take account of points that were raised.

Discussions have also taken place with the Highway Authority in relation to the loss of parking spaces and the matter has been resolved with regard to planning policy.

The Highway Authority has also provided guidance in relation to the scheme which has been incorporated into the design.

Yorkshire Water has also been consulted with regard to the public sewers within site boundary and has raised no objections to the proximity of the extension to their sewers. The company has also provided guidance in relation to the diversion of an existing sewer around the building.

