SILKSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

WAR MEMORIAL LANDSCAPING PROJECT

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

1.0 Site Assessment

The site is located off Martin Croft, Silkstone immediately in front of the war memorial and adjacent to an equipped children's' play area. The site is opposite Silverwood School and is located in an existing residential area. The area is currently covered in uneven tarmac with a few benches.

2.0 The Proposed Scheme

New ramps are proposed to allow wheelchair and pushchair access on to the area and to the war memorial. A new top coat of tarmac will create a smooth surface for children to play and for residents to visit the memorial. An apron of York stone immediately around the memorial will form a gentle slope to enable wheelchair access to the memorial. The sun clock is intended to be educational and the children's hopscotch games will provide children with active outdoor play.

3.0 Planning Policy

The following planning policies from the Barnsley MBC Unitary Development Plan (UDP) have been considered during this application:

GS1 Regeneration: This scheme is in line with BMBC policy to promote environmental improvements. The quality of life of the people who live in the area shall be enhanced and not harmed by the effects of the development.

GS22 Protection and planting of trees, woodland and hedgerows: There are no protected trees or woodland affected by the proposed landscaping.

GS37 New opportunities for Outdoor Recreation Space: this scheme follows the UDP guidance for the improvement of formal and casual recreational provision by upgrading this existing site.

BE2 Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest – Whilst the war memorial is not listed it is of historical value to the Parish. The landscaping will create a fitting environment for this special memorial.

BE1 – BE1A Conservation Areas – This policy has been considered and the proposed scheme is not in a Conservation area.

BE6 Design Standards – The layout has been sympathetically designed to complement the existing war memorial, play area and surroundings. The design has aimed to compliment the war memorial.

BE6B – D – Design and Access for the Public – The scheme has taken account of the needs of the elderly and infirm, people with pushchairs and/or small children and wheelchair users by the inclusion of ramps in the scheme to gain access to the memorial, play area and Pack Horse green residential area.

KC updated 19 Dec 08

T21 Residents Parking – The site will not provide any further parking and bollards have been specifically included in the design to prevent vehicular access.

The scheme has also considered Supplemental Planning Guidance SPG35 – Silkstone Parish Design Statement.

SPG 35 – Silkstone Parish Design Statement – a priority of the design statement is to promote leisure facilities for people of all ages and to encourage a healthier lifestyle for all. By providing an outside play space for young people and a meeting place for older residents it is felt that the design meets these criteria.

4.0 Other issues

The project is being managed by Silkstone Parish Council although the land is owned and maintained by Barnsley MBC. Barnsley MBC will continue to be responsible for the maintenance of the site following the improvement works.

5.0 Summary of findings

Surrounding Area

- The proposed design improves the appearance of the area and does not affect the surrounding residential area.
- The proposed site is located on Martin Croft, off High Street, Silkstone.
- Access to the site will be via 2 ramps providing wheelchair and pushchair access from Martin Croft public footpath and from the footpath at the rear of the site from Pack Horse Green.

Site

- The site is currently used by children to play (although the surface is uneven)and is the congregation area for Remembrance Day.
- The area is to receive a new top coat of tarmac and 3 new ramps along with a brick demarcation of the pathway to Pack Horse green.
- The improvements have been designed to compliment the war memorial, play area and surroundings.
- The site landscaping will consist of existing grassed area, York stone apron to memorial and expanse of tarmac with inlaid sun clock and children's' hopscotch games.

Social Context

- The proposed landscaping will not increase the amount of vehicular traffic.
- There should be no increase in the risk of vandalism or disruptive behaviour.
- The improvements will afford better access to the existing play area for people with pushchairs and will allow wheelchair access.

KC updated 19 Dec 08

Economic context

The economic context of the development is not applicable. The site is already in use for children's play and on Remembrance Day and as an open space, as such no further jobs will be created. There will be no impact upon the area to investors.

Planning Policies

The relevant planning policies affecting the site have been addressed within section 3.0.

Community Involvement

Silkstone Parish Council produced a Parish Plan in 2004 - one of the findings of the Parish Plan was that residents would like to see the area in front of the memorial significantly improved. The scheme has the support of the Parish Council, Ward Councillors, Royal British Legion, CARE (Community Action in the Rural Environment), Roggins Local History Group and Silkstone Parish Church.

Design of the scheme

- It is felt that the scheme is justified in terms of existing site and land use policies.
- The improvements have been sympathetically designed to complement the existing war memorial and play area.

Layout

The layout of the scheme is designed to enhance the existing tarmac surface and provide a pleasant area to complement the war memorial.

Scale

The area and general layout of tarmac/grassed area will be unchanged. With no additional hard surfacing space there will be no increase in run off/increased flood risk.

Landscaping

The landscaping scheme is outlined in sections 2.0 and 5.0.

Appearance

The materials for the scheme have been chosen to complement the existing war memorial and play area.

Access

The improvements to the landscaping aim to provide equal access to all users of the area.