

DESIGN & ACCESS STATEMENT

PROPOSED EXTENSION TO SHAWLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL.

FULL APPLICATION / FEBRUARY 2013.





Aerial view of site

INTRODUCTION

This Design and Access Statement is to support the application for the proposed extension of Shawlands 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. 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 has worked closely with schools and Head Teachers and has adopted a multifaceted approach to ensure the best use is made of the existing school stock.

The Central area of Barnsley encompassing the wards of Central, Old Town, Stairfoot and Worsborough are predicted to have a shortage in capacity at the start of the 2013-14 Academic year, which is predicted to continue in the following years.

Shawlands Primary in agreement with the Authority has agreed to take a 'bulge class' (an additional 30 pupil intake) at the start of the 2013-14 academic year to alleviate the current short term pressure on school places. The school has also agreed to increase its yearly intake from 30 pupils to 40 which long term, will increase the capacity of the school by 70 places.



Birds eye view of site.



Approach to site from east along Shaw Street.



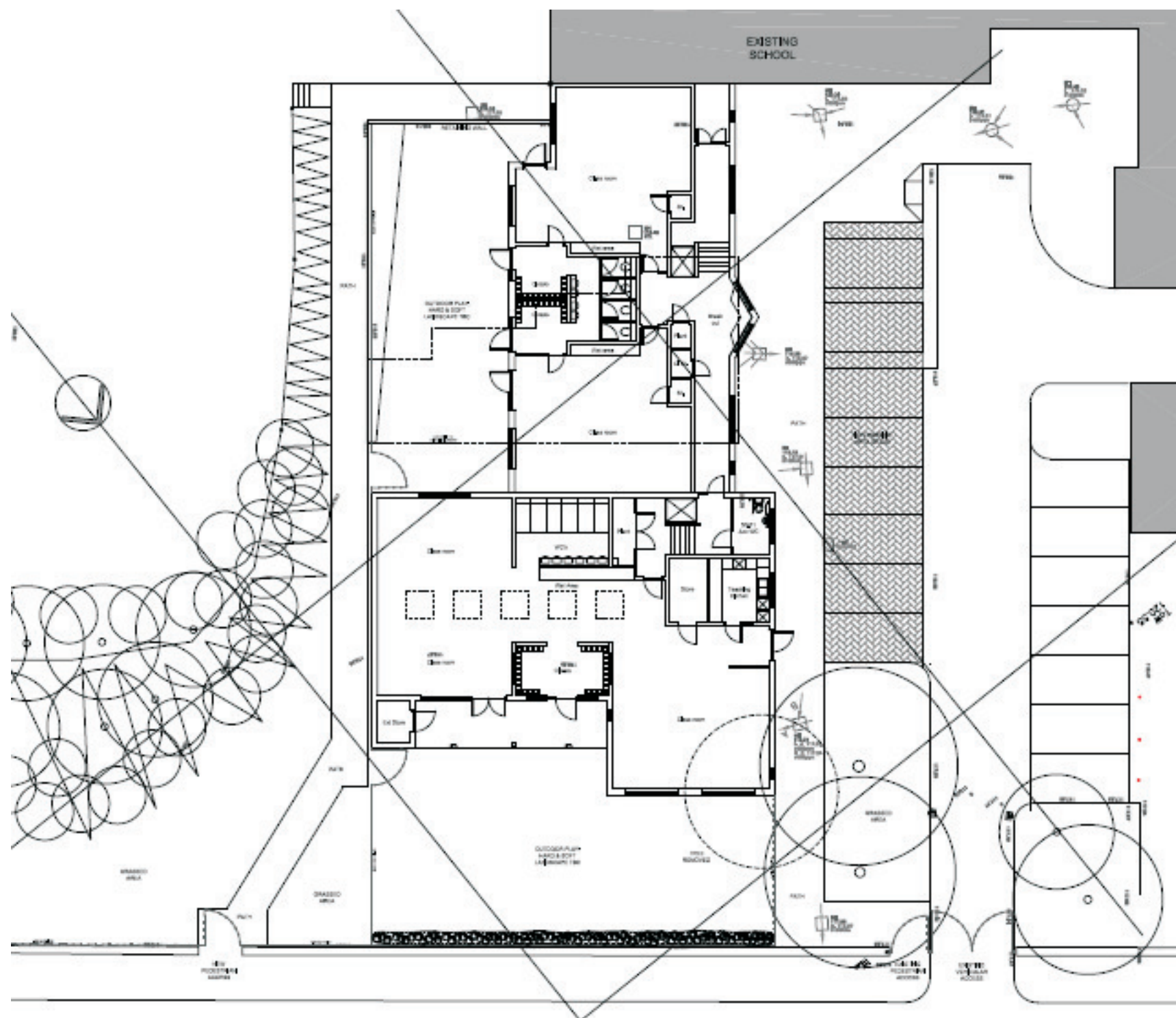
Approach to site from west along Shaw Street.

Location and Description of Site

The Shawlands school site is to the north of Shaw Street and lies between two further primary schools, Joseph Locke and Holy Rood.

The development area is to the front of the existing school, on the site of the demolished two storey Caretakers dwelling and the current nursery unit. The site area is bordered to the east by a steep and heavily landscaped and wooded bank which rises from street level to the grassed sports pitches. To the west the school borders and is attached to the Holy Rood Primary school site with whom they share some joint facilities. The existing school is clad in a red facing brick with stained timber fascia and UPVC windows.

The site has a gradient of approximately 3%, rising for the street level to the school entrance. The site boundary is a stone wall adjacent the highway with gated access to the school. Vehicular access for deliveries and staff is from Shaw Street with current parking for approximately 12 vehicles. The current pedestrian access is adjacent to the vehicular. Several mature trees of differing species are positioned to the front of the site adjacent the highway and it has been confirmed that they are not subject to 'Tree Preservation Orders'.



Design

The scale and sloping nature of the sites topography restricts the development opportunities. However several options have been explored and pre-application consultation with the area Planning Officer has occurred and influenced the proposed design.

The proposed development is phased to allow the completion of the new Foundation unit (66 Pupil places) for the start of the 2013-14 academic year to support the 'bulge class', prior to the demolition of the existing Nursery. Once complete the following phase requires the demolition of the freestanding nursery block and the construction of two new classrooms, which then forms a link between the new foundation unit and existing school.

The proposal makes use of the sloping nature of the site by terracing the two phases of the development down the site. In response to concerns raised at pre-application consultation, the massing of the building, which is single storey, has been arranged in such a way as to not be too dominant on the Shaw Street frontage. The mono-pitch roof (single-ply membrane) of the Foundation unit facing Shaw Street follows the slope of the site and further reduces the visual impact of the building on Shaw Street.

The new Foundation Unit will be seen between the trees from either direction of approach along Shaw Street and is clad in timber which will naturally fade in hue over time. Again this will aid in reducing the visual impact and dominance of the new development on Shaw Street. The second phase of the development, the link building, necessarily follows the roof line of the existing school and will have a flat roof finished in single ply membrane. It is proposed that this building will be clad in a mixture of render, timber and facing brick to match the existing school.



Design cont.

The new open area to the front of the new Foundation Unit will serve as a play area which will be landscaped with a mixture of hard and soft landscape. A new fence is proposed behind the existing boundary wall to provide a secure area for young children. It is intended that the style of the fence is similar to that utilised further west on Shaw Street to the boundary of the old Holgate school site (Horizon ALC). Soft landscaping will be utilised immediately behind the fence to soften the appearance and maintain a physical border between the play area and the highway.

A new pedestrian access to the school site is proposed from Shaw Street between the new development and the sports pitches. This entrance will provide access to the school site for the purposes of 'dropping-off' and 'picking-up' pupils and will be closed after these times. Once the new access is operational the existing pedestrian entrance will become a visitor entrance. This separation of the vehicular and pedestrian access points at busy times will reduce risk and improve public safety on Shaw Street.

