

RHOS PRIMARY SCHOOL ADDITIONAL MOBILE CLASSROOM AT YSGOL I. D. HOOSON

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This document forms a part of the Planning Application. It is intended to provide additional information to that shown on drawings to enable the Application to be fully considered.

THE DEVELOPMENT

This application proposes the installation of a double mobile classroom unit at Ysgol I. D. Hooson, Rhos.

In September 2007 Ysgol I.D. Hooson had 224 pupils at the school. In September 2009, the numbers will be 252. Classes in Key Stage 2 vary between 20 and 31. However, the current intake at the school (for the past two years and predicted for the next two years) is at least 40. The numbers will therefore increase during the next few years. In addition to this, the staff room is currently used by Meithrin +, an external group that provides a service so that Nursery pupils can stay in school all day – a service vital to the school and parents alike. Currently Meithrin + has 18 children registered with 28% of those children having other siblings in the school.

In September 2009, the school will have 47 pupils in Year 1. This has resulted in the needs for an extra class to accommodate two Year 1 classes from September 2009. The school also require an extra room to accommodate Meithrin + enabling the staff room to be used by staff again. This has resulted in the need for a double mobile classroom – ideally for September 2009 as the school will not be able to accommodate all the children.

THE SITE

The current use of the site is for Primary School use.

THE BUILDING USE

The mobile classroom unit will contain two classrooms sufficient to accommodate 30 pupils each with an entrance lobby and W.C's.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The development will not impact on the existing CCTV security measures, and there will be no changes to any existing gates, fences or boundaries. Since the existing school has been built there have been very few reports of vandalism on site.

CHARACTER

The double classroom mobile unit measures approximately 22m long, 6.3m wide and 3.2m in height. The total floor area measured externally is 138 square metres.

The proposed position was agreed with the Headmaster as it did not conflict with any access roads or take any of the hard standing away; it also provided an easy link with the existing building.

The walls of the mobile unit comprise timber cladding decorated in Goose wing grey with a black painted fascia board (or of colours as may be agreed with the planning authority). It is considered to be generally in keeping with the existing single storey main school building.

The mobile classroom is of relatively modest proportions and is of a scale that is fully compatible with the existing main school building and wider surroundings.

The mobile unit has a simple internal layout that reflects its function as a double classroom. Its position on the site is dictated by the need to meet operational needs of the school and to minimise its impact on the school grounds and wider setting.

There will not be any additional hard or soft landscaping carried out as a result of this development, however the school has recently carried out a large amount of tree planting etc that will enhance the site.

ACCESS/MOVEMENT

Pupils and staff travel to the school both on foot and car, a majority travel by car as some pupils travel from outside the village to attend the Welsh medium school. A large carpark to the front of the school has 49 No spaces plus 7 No designated disabled spaces. There is space within the existing carpark layout to add an additional 7 No spaces by white lining an area off, this is adequate spaces for the 40 No staff, parents and disabled along with a drop off area situated near the main entrance. Currently very few schools in the Authority have the amount of parking I. D. Hooson have. Access to the school site as a whole for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles and to the existing school building is appropriate for all users and is unchanged by the mobile classroom. Access to the classroom unit from inside the school building is via an external footpath leading to a ramp that leads up to the main unit entrance. There is no physical link between the unit and the school building.

The position of the mobile suits the school operationally and it would be easily accessible to pupils and teachers alike. An access ramp leading up to the entrance doors will provide level access for any people with disabilities.

In terms of access to the school site itself, the school is committed to developing and implementing its school travel plan.

Access for emergency vehicles is currently adequate and will be unchanged.

An additional two staff will be employed as a result of the development and some additional pupils will also attend the school, as a temporary measure the Meithrin + are currently housed in the existing school staff room.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The classroom unit will be of a standard design (from a manufacturer yet to be agreed) it will be designed with current insulation levels etc and it will have its surface water drainage connected to an existing rainwater harvesting system.

The development promotes efficient use of the land as it allows more pupils to attend the existing school and reduces the need for additional new build schools.

The development will result in a piece of playing field being lost but this does not affect the statutory grassed area required for schools as the site area is so vast.

The School will not provide any negligible pollution.

The adjacent uses are primarily dwellings. During School hours there will be additional noise at very limited play times. There are no obvious extreme external noise sources.

Conclusion

There is a demonstration and urgent need to provide additional classroom space for children of the Welsh medium living in the Rhos area. A mobile classroom unit would be an appropriate solution. It is considered that the proposal complies with the relevant policies of the adopted local plan and should therefore be approved.