Development Management Report Committee Application

Summary			
Committee Meeting Date: Tuesday 20 th September 2022			
Application ID: LA04/2022/0594/F			
Proposal: Three-storey extension including bridge link to the existing school building, reconfiguration of existing parking with additional car parking areas, restoration of hard play areas, landscaping, retaining walls, and associated site, access and ancillary works.	Location: 700 Antrim Road Belfast Co. Antrim BT15 5GQ.		
Referral Route: Major Development			
Recommendation:	APPROVAL		
Applicant Name and Address: The Trustees of Our Lady of Lourdes PS 700 Antrim Road Belfast BT15 5GQ	Agent Name and Address: AECOM 10th Floor Clarence West Building 2 Clarence Street West Belfast BT2 7GP		

Executive Summary:

The application seeks full planning permission for a three-storey extension including bridge link to the existing school building, reconfiguration of existing parking with additional car parking areas, restoration of hard play areas, landscaping, retaining walls, and associated site, access, and ancillary works.

The key issues in the assessment of the proposed development include:

- Principle of redevelopment
- Visual impacts
- Impact on neighbouring amenity
- Impact on Built Heritage
- Traffic and Parking
- Impact on trees and Natural Heritage
- Contaminated Land
- Drainage and Flooding
- Pre-application Community Consultation

The existing school building has a ridge/parapet height of 10.3m. The proposed extension is 12.15m in height and is therefore approximately 2m higher than the existing building. Whilst the proposal would not therefore be subservient to the existing building, the height differential of 2m is considered acceptable on balance given the restricted public views of this part of the site, the requirement for fit for purpose educational facilities, and the constrained physical characteristics of the site due to topography and safeguarding of mature trees. The design and fenestration is modern

in approach and is considered sympathetic to the design of the existing building. Materials proposed include render with coloured spandrel panels and aluminium rainwater goods. These are considered acceptable given the finishes of the existing building. The extension is located approximately 30m from the nearest residential building to the south. It is considered that the proposal will not adversely impact on adjacent properties in terms of overshadowing/loss of light or privacy due to the separation distances available and the proposed orientation of the extension to the northeast/southwest.

An additional parking/hardstanding area is proposed to the rear of the main building at the northwestern corner of the site, extending existing facilities in this location. Retaining structures are also required to facilitate the extended parking areas. It is considered that these improved facilities will not adversely impact on visual amenity due to restricted public views of these areas. Additional playspace areas will be provided in the southwestern corner of the site, replacing the modular buildings currently in that location. This will result in net gain of playspace areas of the site compared to existing arrangements.

The proposal will not adversely impact on trees and natural heritage features. DEARA, BCC Landscape, and BCC Tree Officer have no objections in relation to these issues.

No objections have been received from any consultees subject to conditions and/or informatives or from the public.

Having regard to the development plan, policy context and other material considerations, the proposal is considered acceptable. It is recommended that planning permission is granted subject to conditions.

Delegated authority is sought for the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions.



Representations:	
Letters of Support	None Received
Letters of Objection	None Received
Number of Support Petitions and	No Petitions Received
signatures	
Number of Petitions of Objection and	No Petitions Received
signatures	
Representations from Elected	None received
Representatives	

1.0 **Description of proposal**

1.1 The proposal seeks full planning permission for a three-storey extension including bridge link to the existing school building, reconfiguration of existing parking with additional car parking areas, restoration of hard play areas, landscaping, retaining walls, and associated site, access, and ancillary works

2.0 **Description of Site**

2.1 The 0.77 ha (approx.) site is located at a school facility. It comprises a large three storey building located roughly centrally in the site finished in concrete with a flat roof of modern design. There are a further 6 freestanding single storey buildings located along the northern and western boundaries and to the rear of the site. 5 of these building are typical modular type classrooms. There are hardstanding 'play' areas located between the front of the main building and the site access on the Antrim Road, with additional areas to the rear between the main building and modular classroom buildings. Boundary treatment comprises a mix of hedging and fencing of various heights. The topography of the site slopes from the road-side boundary to the rear and further rises beyond the rear boundary. There are a number of mature trees located within the site, largely sited around the site boundaries and adjacent to the site entrance.

There are dwellings and a primary school to the south of the site, and a single dwelling to the north east. To the west is the Cavehill park and the Antrim Road is adjacent to the eastern boundary. Further dwellings are located opposite the site to the east.

Planning Assessment of Policy and other Material Considerations

3.0	Planning History
3.1	No relevant history

4.0 Policy Framework4.1 Belfast Urban Area P

Belfast Urban Area Plan 2001 (BUAP)
Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (v2004)

Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015 (v2014)

Belfast Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy 2035

4.2 Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS)

Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS)

Planning Policy Statement 2 – Planning and Natural Heritage

Planning Policy Statement 3 - Access, Movement and Parking

Planning Policy Statement 6 – Planning, Archaeology, and the Built Heritage

Planning Policy Statement 8 – Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation

Planning Policy Statement 15 - (Revised) Planning and Flood Risk

5.0 Statutory Consultees

Transport NI – No objections subject to conditions;

NIWater – No objections; DAERA – No objections subject to conditions; Rivers Agency – No objections; Historic Environment Division – No objection; 6.0 **Non-Statutory Consultees** Environmental Health BCC – no objections subject to conditions; BCC Parks & Leisure (Landscape) - no objections; BCC Tree Officer - no objections; Representations 7.0 No objections were received. No representations from Elected representatives have been received. Other Material Considerations 8.0 NA 9.0 Assessment The key issues in the assessment of the proposed development include: Principle of redevelopment Visual impacts Impact on neighbouring amenity Impact on Built Heritage Traffic and Parking Impact on trees and Natural Heritage Contaminated Land Drainage and Flooding Pre-application Community Consultation Principle of redevelopment 9.1 Section 6(4) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 states that in making any determinations under the Act, regard is to be had to the local development plan, and the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Following the recent Court of Appeal decision on BMAP, the extant development plan is now the BUAP. However, given the stage at which the Draft BMAP had reached pre-adoption through a period of independent examination, the policies within the Draft BMAP still carry weight and are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. The weight to be afforded is a matter of judgement for the decision maker. 9.2 The site is located within the development limits of Belfast within the BUAP and both versions of draft BMAP. In Draft BMAP (v2014) the site is unzoned (whiteland). There is a Local Landscape Policy Area (BT 090), Historic Gardens (BT064), and Landscape Wedge (BT080) designated by BMAP adjacent to the site. 9.3 The Belfast Local Development Plan Draft Plan Strategy 2035 will guide future planning application decision making to support the sustainable spatial growth of the city up to 2035. The draft Plan Strategy has been subject to examination by the Planning Appeals Commission and the Council has been provided with a copy of their Report, together with a Direction from the Department for Infrastructure in relation to additional required steps before it can be adopted. Paragraph 1.10 of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) states

that a transitional period will operate until such times as a Council's Plan Strategy has been adopted. Accordingly, whilst the Draft Plan Strategy is now a material consideration it has

limited weight until it is adopted and during this transitional period existing policies will be applied including the SPPS and relevant PPSs.

9.4 Acceptability of proposal at this location

The proposal includes an extension and ancillary works to improve the built form and infrastructure at an existing school facility. Given the existing use at the site, the proposal is considered acceptable in principle subject to no adverse impacts on amenity, landscape features of the site, landscape designations adjacent to the site as outlined above, and technical considerations on advice from the various consultees.

Design and Amenity Considerations

- 9.5 The proposal seeks to provide a three-storey extension adjacent to/south of the main school building with a corridor link, on an area currently used largely for parking. The existing building has a ridge/parapet height of 10.3m. The proposed extension is 12.15m in height and is therefore approximately 2m higher than the existing building. Whilst the proposal would not therefore be subservient to the existing building, the height differential of 2m is considered acceptable on balance given the restricted public views of this part of the site, the requirement for fit-for-purpose educational facilities and the constrained physical characteristics of the site due to topography and safeguarding of mature trees. The design and fenestration is modern in approach and is considered sympathetic to the design of the existing building. Materials proposed include render with coloured spandrel panels and aluminium rainwater goods. These are considered acceptable given the finishes of the existing building. The extension is located approximately 30m from the nearest residential building to the south. It is considered that the proposal will not adversely impact on adjacent properties in terms of overshadowing/loss of light or privacy due to the separation distances available and the proposed orientation of the extension to the northeast/southwest.
- An additional parking/hardstanding area is proposed to the rear of the main building at the northwestern corner of the site, extending existing facilities in this location. Retaining structures are also required to facilitate the extended parking areas. It is considered that these improved facilities will not adversely impact on visual amenity due to restricted public views of these areas. Conditions are necessary to demonstrate that the retaining structures are designed by a suitably qualified person and implemented prior to the adjacent parking area becoming operational for site and public safety reasons. Additional playspace areas will be provided in the southwestern corner of the site, replacing the modular buildings currently in that location. This will result in net gain of playspace areas of the site compared to existing arrangements. Noise implications of these elements and impact on trees/natural heritage assets are considered below.

Impact on Built Heritage

- 9.7 The proposal has been assessed against PPS6 as the development site is adjacent to Belfast Castle and associated gardens and setting impacts/considerations are therefore necessary.
- 9.8 Historic Environment Division (HED) are content that development works for this scheme will not adversely impact on the heritage assets given the separation distances available and have responded with no objections. The proposal is therefore compliant with PPS6 considerations.

9.9 **Traffic and Parking**

DFI Roads have no objections to the access arrangements or level of parking provision subject to conditions (repeated from extant permission). The proposal is therefore compliant with PPS3 and supplementary policy guidance considerations.

9.10 Impact on trees and Natural Heritage

The proposal has been assessed against PPS 2. NED considered an ecological assessment submitted in support of the application. NED have no objections to the application subject to conditions to safeguard any impact to protected species. The proposal is therefore considered compliant with PPS2 in this regard.

- 9.11 The site includes a number of mature trees throughout the site and tree health and condition information has been provided in support of the application. Some of the trees are showing signs of poor health or dead, these trees are recommended for removal due to proximity to a number of target areas within the site. The proposal will retain the large majority of trees within the site and proposals will be outside root protection areas of trees to be retained. 2 trees and soft landscaping areas are proposed as part of the scheme.
- 9.12 BCC Landscape and Tree Officer have no objections to the landscaping details and are therefore considered acceptable. The proposal will therefore not adversely impact on existing trees and appropriate conditions are necessary to ensure tree protection measures during the development and delivery of the proposals. BCC Landscape team have also advised that the proposal will not adversely impact on the draft LLPA.

Contaminated Land, Noise, odour, and nuisance Considerations

- 9.13 Environmental Health have also confirmed that the proposal will not adversely impact on amenity in terms of noise, odour, or other nuisance considerations subject to conditions also detailed below. The proposal therefore is acceptable in terms of these issues.
- 9.14 DAERA Land and Groundwater Team had no objections to the approved development subject to conditions. Some of these are therefore recommended for repetition for this application.

Drainage and Flooding

- 9.15 Dfl Rivers has no objection to the application and conditions securing the drainage mitigation measures are necessary.
- 9.16 NIWater have not raised any objections to the proposals. The proposal will not adversely impact on drainage or sewage infrastructure and is therefore acceptable in relation to these issues.

Pre-application Community Consultation

- 9.17 For applications that fall within the major category as prescribed in the Development Management Regulations, Section 27 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 places a statutory duty on applicant for planning permission to consult the community in advance of submitting an application.
- 9.18 Section 27 also requires that a prospective applicant, prior to submitting a major applications must give notice, known as a 'Proposal of Application Notice' (PAN) that an application for planning permission for the development is to be submitted. A PAN was submitted in advance of the application ref: LA04/2021/2385/PAN.
- 9.19 A Pre-Application Community Consultation Report has been submitted in support of this application. It is considered that the Pre-Community Consultation Report submitted has demonstrated that the applicant has carried out their duty under Section 27 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 to consult the community in advance of submitting an application.

9.20 **Developer Contributions**

Due to the nature of the proposal, it is considered that contributions are not necessary in this case.

10.0 | Summary of Recommendation: Approval subject to conditions

- Having regard to the development plan, policy context and other material considerations, the proposal is considered acceptable. It is recommended that planning permission is granted subject to conditions.
- Delegated authority is sought for the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise the wording of the conditions.
- 11.0 Draft Conditions (delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Building Control to finalise conditions requested):
 - 1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: As required by Section 61 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

2. All external facing and roofing materials shall be carried out as specified on the approved plans.

Reason: In the interests of the character and appearance of the area.

3. All hard and soft landscape works shall be completed in accordance with the approved details, the appropriate British Standard, the relevant sections of the National Building Specification NBS [Landscape] and plant material with the National Plant Specification NPS before the expiration of the first planting season following occupation of any part of the development hereby approved.

All plant stock supplied shall comply with the requirements of British Standard 3936, 'Specification for Nursery Stock'. All pre-planting site preparation, planting and post-planting maintenance works shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of British Standard 4428 'Code of Practice for General Landscape Operations [excluding hard surfaces]'.

Any existing or proposed trees or plants indicated on the approved plans which, within a period of five years from the date of planting, die, are removed or become seriously damaged, diseased or dying shall be replaced during the next planting season with other trees or plants of a location, species and size, details of which shall have first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Council. All hard surface treatment of open parts of the site shall be permeable or drained to a permeable area. All hard landscape works shall be permanently retained in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure the provision, establishment and maintenance of a high standard of landscape.

4. No part of the development hereby permitted shall commence until full design and maintenance details of all proposed retaining walls to be constructed within development hereby permitted have been submitted to and approved by the Council. The details shall include endorsement by a suitably qualified structural or geotechnical engineer.

No part of the development hereby permitted shall be occupied or become operational until a report has been submitted to and approved by the Council verifying, with documentary evidence, that the retaining structures have been constructed in accordance with the design and structural details to be agreed above.

All retaining structures shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the approved details and permanently retained thereafter. No variation to the approved details shall be implemented without the prior consent of the Council.

REASON: In the interests of public safety and residential amenity.

5. No equipment, machinery or materials are to be brought on the site for the purpose of the development including demolition and site clearance until all trees to be retained have been protected by fences or other suitable means of enclosure as per recommendations of BS 5837 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction' 2012 section 6.2 (or equivalent British Standard current at time of works).

Protective fencing shall be at least 2.3 metres high, comprising of a scaffolding framework, verticals positioned no more than 3.0 metres apart driven into the ground approximately 0.6 metres, braced to resist impacts, supporting weldmesh panels, fixed in a manner to avoid easy removal as shown in BS 5837 2005, Figure 2.

Within the fenced area no activities associated with building operations shall take place, and the ground levels within those areas shall not be altered. All means of protection shall be retained in situ for the duration of the development.

Reason: To ensure that adequate protection measures are put in place around trees.

6. The developer shall inform the Council on completing the installation of all tree protection measures so that the Council or their representative may pass such measures before allowing development to commence. Development shall not commence until these measures have been agreed by the Council in writing.

Reason: To ensure that adequate protection measures are put in place around trees prior to the commencement of development to ensure that the trees to be retained are not damaged or otherwise adversely affected by building operations and soil compaction.

7. Any excavation within tree protection areas shall be carried out using non mechanised hand tools only. All roots that are uncovered during excavation in preparation for laying foundations etc., which are in excess of 2.5cm in diameter shall be retained and shall be treated in accordance with BS 3998, 2010 Recommendations for Tree Work [or appropriate British Standard current at time of works] and foundations bridged around them. Any tree roots exposed, which are in excess of 5cm in diameter, shall be surrounded in sharp sand before replacing soil or other material in the vicinity.

Reason: To respect the topography of the site and to ensure the protection of existing landscape features.

8. Prior to the commencement of any of the approved development on site, a final drainage assessment, compliant with Annex D of PPS 15 and Sewers for Adoption Northern Ireland 1st Edition, and containing a detailed drainage network design including a demonstration of how out of sewer flooding will be safely managed must be submitted to the Planning Authority for its consideration and approval.

Reason: In order to safeguard against surface water flood risk to the development and manage and mitigate any increase in surface water flood risk from the development to elsewhere.

9. If during the development works, new contamination or risks to the water environment are encountered which have not previously been identified, works shall cease and the Planning Authority shall be notified immediately. This new contamination shall be fully investigated in accordance with the Land Contamination: Risk Management (LCRM) guidance available at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-contamination-how-to-manage-the-risks. In the event of unacceptable risks being identified, a remediation strategy shall be agreed with the Planning Authority in writing, and subsequently implemented and verified to its satisfaction. prior to the development hereby permitted being occupied or operated. The Verification Report shall be completed by competent persons in accordance with best practice and must demonstrate that the remediation measures have been implemented and that the site is now fit for end-use.

Reason: Protection of environmental receptors to ensure the site is suitable for use.

10. After completing all remediation works under Condition 9 and prior to occupation of the development, a verification report shall be submitted in writing and agreed with the Planning Authority. This report shall be completed by competent persons in accordance with the Land Contamination: Risk Management (LCRM) guidance available at:

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-contamination-how-to-manage-the-risks. The verification report shall present all the remediation and monitoring works undertaken and demonstrate the effectiveness of the works in managing all the risks and achieving the remedial objectives.

Reason: Protection of environmental receptors to ensure the site is suitable for use.

11. There shall be no direct discharge of untreated surface water run-off during the construction or operational phases of the development into the culverted Mount Vernon River.

Reason: To protect Northern Ireland priority habitats and Inner Belfast Lough ASSI and Belfast Lough SPA and Ramsar Site.

12. A suitable buffer of at least 10m must be maintained between the location any refuelling, storage of oil/fuel, concrete mixing and washing areas, storage of machinery/material/spoil etc. and any watercourses or surface drains present onsite or adjacent to the site.

Reason: To protect Northern Ireland priority habitats and Inner Belfast Lough ASSI and Belfast Lough SPA and Ramsar Site.

- 13. No development activity, including ground preparation or vegetation clearance, shall commence until an Invasive Species Management Plan has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The approved Plan shall be implemented in accordance with the approved details, unless otherwise approved in writing by the Planning Authority. The Plan shall include the following:
- a. Updated survey for invasive species to identify all locations on site where they occur;
- b. Details of the removal/eradication and/or treatment of identified invasive species;
- c. Details of any necessary mitigation measures to be implemented during the construction phase or thereafter to prevent the spread of invasive species;
- d. Details of any follow-up management or monitoring of invasive species on the site.

	Reason: To prevent the spread of invasive plant species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended) and to minimise the impact of the proposal on the biodiversity of the site.
	14. Prior to arboricultural works being completed on any tree with low roosting potential, as identified in the PEA (AECOM Limited, January 2022), such trees must be subject to a check for bat presence and mitigation provided if necessary by a suitably qualified ecologist.
	Reason: To minimise potential impacts on roosting bats.
	15. Trees with low roosting potential and proposed for felling, as identified in the PEA (AECOM Limited, January 2022), must be felled using soft-felling techniques, with any limbs or cuttings left in situ overnight before offsite disposal.
	Reason: To minimise potential impacts on roosting bats.
	16. No storage of materials, parking of vehicles or plant, temporary buildings, sheds, offices or fires within the Root Protection Areas of trees within the site and adjacent lands during the construction period.
	Reason: To avoid compaction within the RPA of existing trees to be retained.
12.0	Notification to Department (if relevant) N/A
	Neighbour Notification Checked Yes
Signa	ature(s)
Date:	

ANNEX		
Date Valid	13th April 2022	
Date First Advertised	29th April 2022	
Date Last Advertised		
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Date of Last Neighbour Notification	25th April 2022	
Date of EIA Determination		
ES Requested	No	
Planning History	'	
Lady of Lourdes Primary School including	stitutes a three-storey extension to the existing Our a bridge link to the existing school building, car	

parking areas and reconfiguration of existing, restoration of hard play areas and all associated site and access works.

Address: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, 700 Antrim Rd, Belfast, BT15 5GQ.,

Decision: PANACC **Decision Date:**

Ref ID: Z/2008/0452/F

Proposal: Construction of 2 no. detached dwellings (previously approved under Z/2007/0022/F.

Address: To the rear of 694-696 Antrim Road, Green Castle, Belfast, BT15 5GQ

Decision:

Decision Date: 15.05.2008

Ref ID: Z/1995/3027

Proposal: Alteration to existing vehicular access and provision of

car parking area.

Address: 700 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST BT15

Decision:
Decision Date:

Ref ID: Z/2009/1315/F

Proposal: Erection of a mobile classroom.

Address: Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, 700 Antrim Road, Belfast. BT15 5GQ.

Decision:

Decision Date: 02.11.2009

Ref ID: Z/2006/2409/F

Proposal: New lift installation to accommodate a disabled access within the school and the

creation of a lobby at Mezzanine level within the courtyard of the school.

Address: Trustees of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Parklodge, 700 Antrim Road, Green

Castle, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT15 5GQ

Decision:

Decision Date: 13.12.2006

Ref ID: Z/1998/2993

Proposal: Erection of a new mobile classroom.

Address: OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY SCHOOL, 700 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST BT15

Decision:
Decision Date:

Ref ID: Z/1991/2193

Proposal: Erection of 2 No. mobile classrooms

Address: OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY SCHOOL 700 ANTRIM ROAD BELFASTBT15

Decision:
Decision Date:

Ref ID: Z/1990/2400

Proposal: Erection of 2 mobile classrooms

Address: OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY SCHOOL 698 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST BT15

Decision:
Decision Date:

Ref ID: Z/1992/2554

Proposal: Erection of temporary classroom

Address: OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY SCHOOL 700 ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST BT15

Decision:
Decision Date:

Ref ID: Z/1996/2441

Proposal: Temporary double mobile classroom

Address: OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRIMARY SCHOOL PARK LODGE, ANTRIM ROAD,

BELFAST BT15

Decision:

Decision Date:

Ref ID: Z/1994/2476

Proposal: Erection of 1 double temporary mobile classroom Address: PARK LODGE, 700 ANTRIM ROAD BELFAST BT15

Decision:
Decision Date:

Notification to Department (if relevant)

Date of Notification to Department:

Response of Department: