

Regulatory Committee – 8 June 2021

NWB/19CC006 4-classroom extension, High Meadow Primary School, Norton Road, Coleshill, B46 1ES

Discharge of condition 13 - Green Travel Plan

Recommendation

That the Regulatory Committee authorises the discharge of Condition 13 of planning consent NWB/19CC006 for a Green Travel Plan.

Details for discharge of condition

High Meadow School was formerly a single form entry Infant school which was approved by Cabinet from September 2019, to be converted to a Primary School making provision for both infant and junior school aged pupils. The expansion of the school was required to provide school places for pupils within the catchment area, a demand that was required to be met somewhere in the catchment area and for the provision to be made rapidly.

At its meeting on 03 September 2019, Regulatory Committee resolved to approve planning application NWB/19CC006 for the 4-classroom extension to the school to enable the expansion of the existing school buildings to provide adequate accommodation for the Primary School. The Decision Notice was issued on 16 September 2019 subject to planning conditions including condition 13 requiring the submission and approval of a Green Travel Plan no later than the first occupation of the approved classroom block.

Planning Condition 13 states:

Within 3 months of the first occupation of the approved classroom block a Green Travel Plan to promote sustainable transport choices for people travelling to and from the site shall have been submitted to and approved in writing by the County Planning Authority. The measures (and any variations) so approved shall continue to be implemented at all times. The Plan shall:

- *specify targets for the proportion of pupils, employees and visitors travelling to and from the site by foot, cycle, public transport, shared vehicles and other modes of transport which reduce emissions and the use of non-renewable fuels;*
- *set out measures designed to achieve those targets together with timescales and arrangements for monitoring, review and continuous improvement;*

- *provide for a review of the provision of car parking spaces and cycle parking spaces on the school site to determine whether additional spaces are required and the provision of additional spaces if recommended by that review;*
- *identify a senior manager at the school with overall responsibility for the plan and a scheme for involving staff, pupils and visitors of the school in its implementation and development.*

Reason: *In order to minimise traffic congestion and potential parking issues in and around the school site and to preserve highway safety.*

At that meeting in September 2019 it was resolved that the Green Travel Plan would be brought back to the Regulatory Committee for approval.

Recent Planning History

The recent planning history on the school site is complex and needs some explanation to set the context for this report.

A temporary classroom was required to accommodate pupils from September 2019 during the construction of the permanent extension. The planning application for that temporary classroom (NWB/19CC007) was submitted in June 2019. The classroom was however installed during the school summer holiday, prior to the application being considered by Regulatory Committee on 06 August 2019. The application was deferred to give time to consider a revised location for the building which was subsequently agreed and granted consent by Regulatory Committee in September 2019.

It proved not to be possible for the temporary classroom to be relocated to the approved position while the school was in use by pupils, as a result a further planning application (NWB/19CC015) was submitted to retain the classroom as installed for a temporary period of time until it could be re-located. That consent was granted on 10 January 2020 with a condition requiring the building to be re-located or removed by 20 April 2020.

The works to re-locate the classroom were scheduled to take place during the Easter holiday in 2020, however, prior to that time the national emergency of the Coronavirus pandemic had taken hold and it was not possible for the work to be undertaken during the first lockdown.

Works to the 4-classroom extension to the school as approved by planning application NWB/19CC006 were subsequently continued during the pandemic. As a result of delays the completion of that extension to the school building was behind the original schedule resulting in the requirement for a second temporary classroom to accommodate the new intake of pupils in September 2020. Planning permission NWB/20CC002 was granted in July 2020 for the installation of a second temporary classroom and for the retention of the existing temporary classroom until September 2022. The consent was subject to condition 5 requiring the submission and written

approval of a Green Travel Plan prior to the first occupation of the second temporary classroom. The wording of condition 5 did not set out the full requirements for the Green Travel Plan, but rather required submission of an updated document as an interim measure to take into account the changing situation at the school.

A Green Travel Plan prepared by Curtins was submitted in August 2020 to discharge condition 5 of NWB/20CC002. Following responses from the Highway Authority and Transport Planning, an amended version of the Green Travel Plan was submitted and considered acceptable to discharge condition 5 in November 2020.

Green Travel Plan for Condition 13 of NWB/19CC006

The Green Travel Plan approved in November 2020 was updated to include details of and requirements for the 4-classroom extension to the school and submitted in February 2021 to discharge condition 13 of the main planning application – NWB/19CC006.

Both the Highway Authority and Transport Planning have been consulted on the version of the Green Travel Plan submitted in February and in response to their comments a further amended version was submitted in April 2021 which is considered to be acceptable to discharge condition 13.

While a planning condition would generally require a Green Travel Plan to be submitted to discharge the condition some 6 months after the development had been occupied in order for surveys to be undertaken including the new occupants of the building, in this case planning condition 13 requires the Green Travel Plan to be submitted and approved prior to the occupation of the extension. As a result, the document prepared does not include the specific survey results for the school roll that will be attending when the completed development is occupied. However, the document is considered to adequately address the requirements of the planning condition:

- It specifies the targets for the proportion of pupils, employees and visitors travelling to and from the school by foot, cycle, public transport, shared vehicles and other modes of transport which reduce emissions and the use of non-renewable fuels;
- It sets out measures to achieve the targets together with timescales and arrangements for monitoring and review;
- It states that a future car parking and cycle parking survey would be undertaken of the school parking provision when conditions return to normal after the Covid restrictions.
- It identifies the Head Teacher as the designated Travel Plan Coordinator who will liaise with the High Meadow School Working Party.

A School Travel Plan / Green Travel Plan is a document which sets out a package of measures to reduce the number of car trips made to and from school, to promote healthier and more environmentally friendly forms of transport and to improve safety on the school journey. It is a live document that constantly needs updating. Surveys to inform a Green Travel Plan should be done initially every three months in order to see the effectiveness of the measures. Only by having regular surveys can the Travel Plan be considered a robust document.

The amended Green Travel Plan as currently submitted is considered to be adequate to discharge condition 13. It is not however considered to be the final document, but a version of an evolving document to be prepared by the school, that should continue to reduce the number of journeys made by car and improve safety for journeys to school.

The phrasing of Condition 13 requires that the Green Travel Plan will be implemented at all times giving the assurance that travel surveys will be ongoing, to be carried out on a quarterly basis and for an annual review continuing post-occupation of the new classrooms.

7. Background Documents

7.1 Green Travel Plan submitted to discharge condition 13 of NWB/19CC006 – 068668-CUR-00-XX-RP-TP-002-V04 dated 07 April 2021 – Prepared by Curtins.

7.2 Appendix A – Map of site and location.

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Sally Panayi	sallypanayi@warwickshire.gov.uk 01926 41 2692
Assistant Director for Environmental services	Scott Tompkins	scotttompkins@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director for Communities	Mark Ryder	markryder@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Jeff Clarke	