

213842 - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AT CLEHONGER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, GOSMORE ROAD, CLEHONGER, HEREFORD, HR2 9SN

For: Mrs Honey per Mr Matt Hobby, Easters Court, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0DE

ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

- Sufficiency, Planning & Capital Investment Manager from the Children and Families Directorate:
 - “The Children & Families Directorate have not been specifically consulted on this application even though it relates to a school building, however, it was one that we were aware of and had agreed with the school. That said, I have just looked on the planning portal to see the current status of this application as there is another project that we wish, as a council, to undertake at the school which is dependent upon this planning application.
I can see that the plans have now changed. I assume that this is in relation to the comments received by the neighbour and the Parish Council. The plans are now showing that the entire room is enclosed, so this is no longer an outdoor classroom but a log cabin. The idea behind the outdoor classroom was that it could be used as a teaching space by the school for outdoor activities but would not be a permanent use facility. Replacing this with a log cabin means the room can be used all year round and will be considered as an additional permanent classroom base which we do not require at the school (and would result in a potential increase in pupil numbers) and defeats the object of removing the portacabin that is currently on site (for which planning has expired).
I am therefore unable to support this application with the plans as they are now proposed. Should the rear of the outdoor classroom be fully enclosed but the remaining sides open, this would be acceptable as it would not constitute an all year round facility.
Should you need any further information in relation to any of the above then please let me know.”

OFFICER COMMENTS

The above representation has not been considered in the Officers Report. The following comments should be considered:

It is important firstly to define what an ‘outdoor classroom’ is. The following definition comes from Academy Today which is a digital platform featuring education news/opinions/reviews etc. found at the following link: [Six ways outdoor classrooms can benefit learning | Academy Today](#) “an outdoor classroom is an external shelter within the school grounds, which creates an extended covered practical area for outdoor learning and play”.

As amended, the rear elevation would now be enclosed, however the front elevation would remain fully open. As such officers do not consider that the building is representative of a ‘log cabin’ but rather that the building would still fall within the description of an ‘outdoor classroom’. Notwithstanding, in order to address the concerns raised an additional condition

which aims to ensure that the building is used as a teaching / learning space only and not as a permanent classroom is recommended.

CHANGE TO RECOMMENDATION

Additional condition:

The building hereby permitted shall be used solely as an outdoor classroom for a teaching and/or learning space and not as a permanent classroom.

Reason: The local planning authority is only prepared to allow this building as an outdoor classroom to support an educational need for these facilities having regard to Policies SC1, SD1 and MT1 of the Herefordshire Local Plan – Core Strategy, Policies C6 and C9 of the Clehonger Neighbourhood Development plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.