Report of the Head of Planning & Enforcement Services

Address HAYDON SCHOOL WILTSHIRE LANE EASTCOTE PINNER

- **Development:** Details in compliance with condition 4 (fence colour) of planning permission ref: 9556/APP/2010/1370 dated 06/08/2010: Installation of mesh fence and automatically locking gate and new window to existing elevation.
- LBH Ref Nos: 9556/APP/2010/2490
- Drawing Nos: Letter received from agent on 14 January 2011 detailing fence colour

Date of receipt: 25/10/2010 Date(s) of Amendment(s):

1. ORIGINAL PLANNING REFERENCE

9556/APP/2010/1370

2. MAIN PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

SITE:

The application site is the line of the northern boundary fence of Haydon School which fronts directly onto Norwich Road. The fence will extend from the west corner of Haydon School's boundary at the Wiltshire Road/Norwich Road junction and would finish at the vehicular access point to the school on Norwich Road. This fence would be set behind the existing mature landscaping on this boundary.

PROPOSAL:

The replacement of the existing fencing was the subject of a scheme approved in August 2010(99556/APP/2010/1370). The approved scheme involved the erection of a 112m long section of 2.4m high zebex mesh fencing with an electronically lockable gate. This fence will replace an existing 1.8m high chainlink fence. This application concerns the discharge of condition 4, which relates only to the colour of the approved fence and not its design, height or location, issues that have all been previously agreed(99556/APP/2010/1370).

Condition 4 states "Notwithstanding the information supplied on the application forms and contained within the supporting documents, details of the colour of the proposed metal zebex fence, hereby approved, shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority."

The applicant originally submitted details with this application for the fence to be for a light blue colour (RAL 5017). This proposed colour was a close match to the existing blue colour fencing found on the wider school site. However following

North Planning Committee - 22nd February 2011 PART 1 - MEMBERS, PUBLIC & PRESS discussions and in a bid to achieve a more neutral and less visually obtrusive colour to this section of fence, the applicant proposes the fence is coloured Cobalt Blue (RAL 5013).

PUBLIC CONSULTATION:

The application, as a discharge of condition application was not the subject to a site notice. No consultation letters were initially sent out to owner/occupiers of neighbouring properties, in line with standard practice.

A 45 strong petition was received against the original proposed colour (RAL 5017). The petition considered the original blue colour proposed would not harmonise with the existing streetscene or improve or complement the area.

Three letters of objection were received, 2 of these letters from the same resident. One of the residents wrote a letter of objecting to the colour and its appearance in the neighbourhood and the objector sought a more neutral green or grey colour.

The other two letter of objection (from the lead petitioner) considered the original blue was not a good match to the navy blue colour used in the existing school fencing on the site and also considered the colour did not harmonise, improve or complement the character of the area. A more neutral dark green was advocated as more natural and in keeping with the area.

Consultation letters were sent out to all the owner/occupants of neighbouring properties that received a consultation letter with the original application (99556/APP/2010/1370), following the receipt of the petition and following the applicants decision to revise the proposed colour to cobalt blue. The written consultation led to a further letter of objection from a third resident. The resident objected to the colour and sought a more subtle shade of green to blend on with the environment

The school is understood to have approached the lead petitioner to see if there was willingness to withdraw the petition following the change in the proposed shade of blue. It is understood the lead petitioner was not willing to withdraw the petition.

IMPACT ON STREETSCENE:

The main planning consideration is whether the proposed colour is in sympathy and harmony with the school site and within the wider streetscene in Norwich Road and also, where visible, from the adjoining Wiltshire Lane. The proposed dark blue colour is considered relatively neutral and not unduly eye catching.

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES:

In response to the letter of objection and the petition against the original colour proposed with the application, whilst it is acknowledged the proposed cobalt blue colour is not black or green, colours that objectors suggest would be the most

North Planning Committee - 22nd February 2011 PART 1 - MEMBERS, PUBLIC & PRESS natural or neutral colours to use. However it is considered the cobalt blue is close to black in colour and would provide a high degree of unobtrusive neutrality whilst still managing to harmonise with the lighter colour blue fencing found elsewhere on the school site.

CONCLUSION:

The proposed revised cobalt blue colour is considered in keeping and harmony with the school site and the wider streetscene and such will not have any adverse impact on the character of the area. For these reasons the scheme is considered to comply with Policy BE13 of the UDP (Saved Policies September 2007), and is recommended for approval.

3. **RECOMMENDATION**

APPROVAL

INFORMATIVES

Contact Officer: Gareth Gwynne

Telephone No: 01895 250230

