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12th June 2019

Statement to support planning application

We currently have a decking area at the back of our school building, which two of our classrooms open onto. The current decking is in a bad state of repair and needs to be replaced so it is a safe area for the children to use. We have a strong focus on outdoor learning in our school, so want to make the most of the opportunities for our children to learn and play outside in a safe environment.

We would like to add a shelter over the decking, which we do not have currently, to make the area more usable in all weathers and to protect the decking. We would like to replace the existing decking and slightly extend the size of the decked area. We would also like to incorporate access to a new fenced-in nature area, which would be accessed via a gate and steps down from the decking. This will be created from a currently unused piece of land adjacent to the existing decking.

The materials used will be predominantly timber, with a polycarbonate roof canopy.

The proposed dimensions are as follows:

Shelter: 7.9m X 4.6m

Decking including steps: 11.6m X 4.3m

The application site falls within a green belt area.

There is currently a small hedge (approx. 75cm high) at ground level around the base of the decking area, which would need to be removed as part of the development. There is a small Cherry tree in what will be the nature area, which will be retained. The tree will be protected during the development using cones to mark a no-entry zone for contractors. No other trees will be affected by the development.