

# **Strategic Planning Board**

## **Agenda**

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<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 29th January, 2020</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>The Capesthorne Room - Town Hall, Macclesfield SK10 1EA</b>

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**Please note that members of the public are requested to check the Council's website the week the Strategic Planning Board meeting is due to take place as Officers produce updates for some or all of the applications prior to the commencement of the meeting and after the agenda has been published.**

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the top of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision meetings are audio recorded and the recordings are uploaded to the Council's website.

### **PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2. Declarations of Interest/Pre Determination**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and for Members to declare if they have a pre-determination in respect of any item on the agenda.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Pages 3 - 10)**

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**Please Contact:** Sarah Baxter on 01270 686462  
**E-Mail:** [sarah.baxter@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.baxter@cheshireeast.gov.uk) with any apologies or request for further information  
[Speakingatplanning@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:Speakingatplanning@cheshireeast.gov.uk) to arrange to speak at the meeting

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2019 as a correct record.

#### 4. **Public Speaking**

A total period of 5 minutes is allocated for each of the planning applications for the following:

- Ward Councillors who are not members of the Strategic Planning Board
- The relevant Town/Parish Council

A period of 3 minutes is allocated for each of the planning applications for the following individuals/groups:

- Members who are not members of the Strategic Planning Board and are not the Ward Member
- Objectors
- Supporters
- Applicants

5. **19/1068M-The demolition of existing buildings and the residential redevelopment of The King's School Cumberland Street site to provide a mixture of conversion and new build dwellings and 'Later Living' apartments, with associated access, car parking, open space, landscaping and infrastructure, Kings School, Cumberland Street, Macclesfield for Mr James Payne, Hillcrest Homes (est 1985) Ltd and the Foundation of Sir John Percyvale (Pages 11 - 48)**

To consider the above application.

6. **19/1392M-Reserved Matters in relation to scale, appearance, landscape and layout for the erection of 190 dwellings including allotments, community orchard, playing pitch, landscaping, open space, car and cycle parking, drainage and associated works pursuant to outline application 17/3853M, Land North of, Northwich Road, Knutsford for Michael Blackhurst, Redrow (Pages 49 - 68)**

To consider the above application.

**Membership:** Councillors S Edgar, D Edwardes, A Farrall, S Gardiner (Vice-Chairman), P Groves, S Hogben, M Hunter (Chairman), D Jefferay, R Moreton, P Redstone, B Roberts, J Weatherill and P Williams

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Strategic Planning Board**  
held on Wednesday, 18th December, 2019 at Council Chamber - Town Hall,  
Macclesfield, SK10 1EA

### **PRESENT**

Councillor M Hunter (Chairman)  
Councillor S Gardiner (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors S Edgar, D Edwardes (Substitute), A Farrall, A Gage (Substitute),  
P Groves, S Hogben, D Jefferay, P Redstone and P Williams

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms S Dillon (Planning Lawyer), Mr D Evans (Principal Planning Officer), Mr P  
Hurdus (Highways Development Manager), Mr D Malcolm (Acting Head of  
Planning), Mr J Owens (Development Planning Manager) and Mr G Taylerson  
(Principal Planning Officer)

### **52 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Moreton, B  
Roberts and J Weatherill.

### **53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PRE DETERMINATION**

In the interests of openness in respect of item 8-Brooks Lane  
Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document, Councillor  
S Gardiner declared that was a former employee of Barton Wilmore and  
was part of their pension scheme.

In the interests of openness in respect of item 8-Brooks Lane  
Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document, Councillor  
M Hunter declared that he was the Ward Councillor for Middlewich.

In the interest of openness in respect of applications 19/2202M, 19/3784C  
and 19/3126C, Councillor S Hogben declared that he was a Director of  
ANSA who were a consultee on the applications, however he had not  
made any comments nor discussed the applications.

In the interest of openness in respect of application 19/3162C, Councillor  
P Redstone declared that he once had an option for some land with  
Gladman, however he did not currently have an option.

### **54 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **RESOLVED**

That minutes of the meeting held on be approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**55 PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**RESOLVED**

That the public speaking procedure be noted.

**56 19/2202M - LAND BETWEEN CLAY LANE AND SAGARS ROAD, HANDFORTH SK9 3HF: APPLICATION FOR RESERVED MATTERS APPROVAL (APPEARANCE, LANDSCAPING, LAYOUT AND SCALE) FOR THE ERECTION OF 224 DWELLINGS, LANDSCAPING, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, INTERNAL ACCESS ROADS, GARAGES. CAR PARKING, AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ANWYL HOMES**

Consideration was given to the above application.

(Parish Councillor Ron Dixon, representing Styal Parish Council, Parish Councillor Moore, representing Handforth Parish Council, and Anna Relph, representing the applicant attended the meeting and spoke in respect of the application).

**RESOLVED**

(a)That for the reasons set out in the report and in the written update to the Board the application be approved subject to the following conditions:-

1. To comply with outline permission
2. Development in accord with approved plans
3. Materials as application
4. Tree and hedgerow retention for 10 years
5. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the details in the submitted Landscape and Habitat Management Plan
6. Detailed design of ponds to be submitted
7. Nesting bird survey to be submitted
8. Development to be carried out in accordance with submitted tree protection scheme and arboricultural method statement
9. All external lighting is to be capped below the horizon
10. No photovoltaic solar panels to be constructed
11. Measures to control dust and smoke during construction to be submitted
12. Details of apartment cycle stores to be submitted
13. Bin stores and cycle stores to be provided prior to occupation of each unit
14. Surfacing details for link track between Clay Lane and Sagars Road to be submitted
15. Landscape details to be submitted
16. Implementation of landscape scheme.

17. Footbridge details to be submitted
18. Hard surfacing details to be agreed

(b) That discussions take place with officers and the relevant Ward Councillors and Parish Councils in respect of the S106 monies and how this could potentially be spent.

In addition it was agreed that there would be an informative in respect of insulation.

(The meeting was adjourned for a short break).

**57 19/3784C - LAND SOUTH OF, OLD MILL ROAD, SANDBACH: FULL PLANNING APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF A CARE HOME (CLASS C2), 85 NEW DWELLINGS (CLASS C3) AND CREATION OF ASSOCIATED ACCESS ROADS, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND LANDSCAPING FOR MULLER PROPERTY GROUP**

Consideration was given to the above application.

(Matthew Wedderburn, representing the applicant attended the meeting and spoke in respect of the application. In addition a statement was read out on behalf of the Ward Councillor S Corcoran and the neighbouring Ward Councillor M Benson).

**RESOLVED**

That for the reasons set out in the report the application be refused for the following reasons:-

1. This is an important gateway location and prominent site in Sandbach. The phasing of the development would result in a development which is dominated by engineered access with a poor relationship to the frontage of the site (north). The development will not suitably integrate or add to the overall quality to the area in character or landscape terms. Furthermore the topography of the site is not conducive to a large floorplate of the care home and would result substantial engineered retaining structures. The proposed development fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of the area and is contrary to Policies SE1 and SE4 of the CELPS, Policy H2 of the SNP and guidance contained within the NPPF.

2. The application site is of a very challenging topography including an escarpment that runs along the central part of the site. The submitted information demonstrates that the care home part of the development will require engineered retaining wall with minimal landscape mitigation along the western boundary and it is unclear how land levels would be treated to avoid any changes within the RPA of a mature Sycamore Tree (T12). Furthermore the application does not include sections or levels information in relation to the proposed access north of the proposed care home. On

this basis the development would not achieve a sense of place and would be harmful to the character of the area. The proposed development is therefore contrary to Policies SD2, SE1, SE4 and SE5 of the CELPS, PC2 of the Sandbach Neighbourhood Plan and guidance contained within the NPPF.

3. The proposed development includes the provision of a 74 bed care home/extra care facility with the provision of 33 car parking spaces. The level of car parking proposed falls below the standards set out within Appendix C of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy. This shortfall in parking would result in on-road parking within the development which would harm the character and appearance of the development and vehicle movements within the site. The proposed development is contrary to Policy CO 2 and Appendix C of the CELPS and the NPPF.

4. The proposed development is located partly within the Sandbach Wildlife Corridor. The proposed development would result in a loss of a substantial area of habitat within the wildlife corridor. The proposed development would result in an overall loss of biodiversity from the designated wildlife corridor. As a result the proposed development would be contrary to Congleton Local Plan Policy NR4, CELPS Policy SE3, SNP Policies PC4 and JLE1 and the NPPF.

In order to give proper effect to the Committee's intent and without changing the substance of its decision, authority is delegated to the Head of Development Management in consultation with the Chair (or in their absence the Vice Chair) to correct any technical slip or omission in the resolution, before issue of the decision notice.

If the application is subject to an appeal approval is given to enter into a S106 Agreement with the following Heads of Terms;

<b>S106</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Triggers</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	30% (65% Affordable Rent / 35% Intermediate)	In accordance with phasing plan to be submitted at the reserved matters stage.  No more than 80% open market occupied prior to affordable provision in each phase.
<b>Education</b>	For a development of 85 dwellings;  13 x £17,959 x 0.91 = £212,455.00 (secondary)  1 x £50,000 x 0.91 = £45,500.00 (SEN)	SEN – Full amount prior to first occupation of the housing development  Secondary – Full amount prior to first occupation of 30 dwellings

	Total education contribution: £257,955	
<b>Health</b>	Contribution of £70,812	Full amount to be paid prior to the commencement of the housing/care home
<b>Indoor recreation</b>	Contribution of £29,531	Full amount to be paid prior to the commencement of the housing/care home
<b>Outdoor recreation</b>	Contribution of £1,000 for a family dwelling or £500 per 2 bed apartment space	Full amount prior to first occupation of 50 dwellings
<b>Public Space</b> <b>Open</b>	Private Management Company  Provision of a NEAP and the open space	On first occupation  On occupation of 50% of the dwellings
<b>Highways Contribution for works between the The Hill junction and the site access roundabout</b>	Contribution of £200,000	50% prior to the commencement  50% prior to the first occupation of the housing/care home

(The meeting was adjourned for a short break).

- 58 **19/3162C - LAND SOUTH OF, WAGGS ROAD, CONGLETON, CHESHIRE: OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF UP TO 98 DWELLINGS WITH PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, LANDSCAPING, AND SUSTAINABLE DRAINAGE SYSTEM (SUDS) AND VEHICULAR ACCESS POINT FROM WAGGS ROAD. FOOTPATH AND CARRIAGEWAY IMPROVEMENTS ALONG WAGGS ROAD FRONTING PROPERTIES BETWEEN 75 AND 89 WAGGS ROAD. ALL MATTERS RESERVED EXCEPT FOR MEANS OF ACCESS FOR GLADMAN**

Consideration was given to the above application.

(Councillor S Holland, the Ward Councillor, Town Councillor Amanda Martin, representing Congleton Town Council and Neil MacKrell, an objector attended the meeting and spoke in respect of the application).

**RESOLVED**

That the application be refused for the following reasons:-

1) The proposed residential development is unsustainable because it is located within the Open Countryside contrary to Policies PG6 (Open Countryside) & SD1 (Sustainable Development in Cheshire East) of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy, Saved Policy PS8 (Open Countryside) of the Congleton Borough Local Plan and the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework, which seek to ensure development is directed to the right location and open countryside is protected from inappropriate development and maintained for future generations enjoyment and use.

2) The proposal would not provide safe and suitable access for all users and the lack of suitable footways and cycle tracks would create conflict with vehicles due to the reduced carriageway widths on Waggs Road. It is therefore concluded that there is inadequate infrastructure in place to support further major residential development as safe and suitable access has not been demonstrated. The development is therefore contrary to Policies SD1 (Sustainable Development in Cheshire East), SD2 (Sustainable Development Principles), SC3 (Health and Well-being), C01 (Sustainable Travel and Transport), C04 (Travel Plans and Transport Assessments) of the Cheshire East Local Plan, Saved Policies GR9, GR10 and GR18 (Traffic Generation) of the Congleton Borough Local Plan and the requirements of the NPPF

In order to give proper effect to the Board's/Committee's intentions and without changing the substance of the decision, authority is delegated to the Acting Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair (or in his absence the Vice Chair) of Strategic Planning Board, to correct any technical slip or omission in the wording of the resolution, between approval of the minutes and issue of the decision notice.

Should the application be subject to an appeal, the following Heads of Terms should be secured as part of any S106 Agreement:

<b>S106</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Triggers</b>
<b>Affordable Housing</b>	30% (65% Affordable Rent / 35% Intermediate)	In accordance with phasing plan to be submitted and approved
<b>Health</b>	Contribution to support the development of the Readsmore Medical Centre using a formula of occupancy x the number of units in the development x £360.	50% Prior to first occupation 50% at occupation of half the eventual number of dwellings (for e.g. if 98 provision at occupation of 49th dwelling)
<b>Public Open Space</b>	Provision of 20m2 amenity green space per dwelling	50% Prior to first occupation



	<p>Provision of 20m2 children's play space per dwelling</p> <p>Provision of a community allotment/orchard measuring 500m2</p> <p>Contribution of £1,000 per family dwelling for improvements to outdoor sports</p> <p>Contribution towards indoor sport using the below formula</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of dwellings at 1.61 people per residence = the population increase</li> <li>- The annual Sport England Active People Survey Results for 2016 showed 42.7% participation rate for Cheshire East = % based on the above figures additional "active population" due to the new development at Waggs Road, Congleton</li> <li>- Based on an industry average of 25 users per piece of health &amp; fitness equipment this equates to an additional equivalent ? stations or their financial equivalent (one fitness station equivalent of £6,500).</li> </ul>	<p>50% at occupation of half the eventual number of dwellings (for e.g. if 98 provision at occupation of 49<sup>th</sup> dwelling)</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>Contribution to support school provision using the below formula:</p> <p>18 x £11,919 x 0.91 = £195,233  15 x £17,959 x 0.91 = £245,140  1 x £50,000 x 0.91 = £45,500 (SEN)</p>	<p>50% Prior to first occupation  50% at occupation of half the eventual number of dwellings (for e.g. if 98 provision at occupation of 49<sup>th</sup> dwelling)</p>

(Prior to consideration of the following item, Councillor S Hogben left the meeting and did not return).

Consideration was given to the above report.

**RESOLVED**

That the Portfolio Holder for Planning be recommended to approve and publish the Final Draft of the Brooks Lane Development Framework SPD (Appendix 2) alongside the report of consultation for public representations for a period of six weeks.

(During consideration of the item, Councillor D Edwardes left the meeting and then returned).

**60 PLANNING APPEALS REPORT**

To consider the above report.

**RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 1.35 pm

Councillor M Hunter (Chairman)

Application No: 19/1068M

Location: KINGS SCHOOL, CUMBERLAND STREET, MACCLESFIELD,  
CHESHIRE, SK10 1DA

Proposal: The demolition of existing buildings and the residential redevelopment of  
The King's School Cumberland Street site to provide a mixture of  
conversion and new build dwellings and 'Later Living' apartments, with  
associated access, car parking, open space, landscaping and  
infrastructure

Applicant: Mr James Payne, Hillcrest Homes (est 1985) Ltd and the Foundation of Sir  
John Percyvale

Expiry Date: 14-Jun-2019

Macclesfield is one of the principal towns and growth areas of the Borough where national and local plan policies support sustainable development. The proposal provides 115 dwellings of an acceptable scale relative to the principal town of Macclesfield and would deliver housing within a highly sustainable location adjoining the Town Centre Boundary. The site is largely brownfield in nature and therefore its redevelopment to provide homes in such a highly sustainable location aligns with the general principles of national and local policy. Whilst there would be a partial loss of open space comprising of the cricket pitch, this would be replaced with an equivalent or better provision at the new school site. The proposals would provide for a diverse range and mix of housing, and correspondingly, a diverse community. Discussions are ongoing as to the quantum of affordable housing that this development can reasonably bear. Subject to this, the scheme will provide an element of affordable housing.

In design terms, the proposal would provide a high quality innovative scheme with a contemporary approach whilst protecting listed buildings. Whilst it is acknowledged that there would be an intrusion of the 'later living' block, it is considered that this is balanced against the improvements that would be seen from the Sainsbury's roundabout and the overall design credentials of the scheme. There are also benefits derived from ensuring a sustainable future use is secured for such an important and prominent site within Macclesfield from a heritage perspective. Thus, the proposals represent a high quality scheme, with many positive attributes.

There is an opportunity to ensure that the loss of the cricket pavilion is replaced with a high quality memorial proposal to compensate for its loss. Coupled with the applicant's proposal for the memorial garden within the site, it is considered that the loss of the cricket pavilion would be acceptable in the context of the proposals for both this site.

In highways terms, the impact from a residential scheme would be no greater than that of the school use and therefore the local highway network would be able to accommodate the likely traffic movements generated by the proposal. Adequate parking would be provided having regard of the size, type and scale and the sites' highly sustainable location adjoining the town centre boundary.

The proposal would not materially harm neighbouring residential amenity and would provide sufficient amenity for the new occupants having regard to the character of the area and the design credentials of the scheme. The application would offset the impact on public open space, healthcare and education through the provision of financial contributions. The applicants have demonstrated general compliance with national and local guidance in a range of areas including ecology, flood risk, noise and air quality.

The proposal is for sustainable development which would bring environmental, economic and social benefits. The proposal is therefore considered to be acceptable in the context of the relevant policies of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy and the saved policies of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan and advice contained within the NPPF. The application is therefore recommended for approval subject to conditions and the necessary Section 106 obligation.

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION**

Approve subject to conditions and S106 Agreement

## **DESCRIPTION OF SITE AND CONTEXT**

This application relates to part of the King's School campus off Cumberland Street, Macclesfield, due to be vacated this summer upon completion of the new school at Prestbury.

The site occupies a prominent position on the north side of Cumberland Street, one of the main arterial routes through the town. It is positioned in between the two roundabouts that juncture with Westminster Road, Churchill Way and Hibel Road (A537) with some listed Alms houses located on the opposite side of the road to the south. Westminster Road runs along the western boundary to the site with Sainsbury's supermarket located on the opposite side.

Coare Street, which is formed predominantly by terraced residential properties, is located to the north of the site and dissects the school campus. The northern side is not part of this application but there are proposals for the erection of retirement living housing and extra care retirement accommodation for older people currently being considered under planning ref; 18/4540M. Further to the north, the rest of the Westminster Road campus is being developed for housing.

To the east of the site, Pownall Street and Tunnicliffe Street bound the site and accommodate further residential properties. The site benefits from vehicular and pedestrians accesses from Cumberland Street, Coare Street and Pownall Street.

Within the site itself, there are 2 principal listed buildings comprising of the original school (now library) and Headmasters House and the lodge. There are also a number of pre-1948 curtilage listed elements: the extensive stone walls around the perimeter of the site, the main school building circa 1911, the Science block and the cricket pavilion (both 1930s). At the centre of the site, enclosed by buildings to the north, the vehicular driveway, mature attractive trees and stone walls, is the school cricket pitch.

Buildings on the site are predominantly 2 storeys, however the arts block is 3 storey on the Westminster Road side. The former library and the original school building are characterised by steeply pitched roofs, whilst the main school building is laid out in a 'U' plan with shallower, hipped roofs.

To the south of the main school buildings the site is relatively flat, but there is a change of level north of the buildings on Coare Street and to a lesser degree on Westminster Road, with the stone boundary wall retaining the site. The change in level on Coare Street is circa 5 metres, with the school building perched above and more modern additions on the rear of the main building and immediately behind the library constructed into the slope. The Coare Street side has a pedestrian bridge that links the two sites.

Save for the cricket pitch, the site is designated as being within the predominantly residential area of Macclesfield according to the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan (MBLP) 2004. The area that the cricket pitch occupies is allocated as 'existing open space' in the MBLP. The Town Centre Boundary bounds Cumberland Street to the south.

## **DETAILS OF PROPOSAL**

This application seeks full planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings and the residential redevelopment of The King's School Cumberland Street site to provide a mixture of conversion and new build dwellings and 'Later Living' apartments, with associated access, car parking, open space, landscaping and infrastructure. The proposal would provide 115 residential units on the site comprising of:

- Houses - 34 units made up of 7 x 2 beds, 13 x 3 beds, 9 x 4 beds and 5 x 5 beds
- Main School Building - 29 units made up of 23 x 2 beds and 6 x 1 beds
- Library 7 x 2 beds units
- Later Living building - 44 units made up of 20 x 1 beds, 23 x 2 beds and 1 x 3 beds
- Gate House - 1 x 3 bed

### **RELEVANT HISTORY**

001192P - GLASS CANOPY TO MAIN ENTRANCE – Approved 12-Jul-2000

42635P & 42547P - EXTENSION TO LIBRARY & CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATION – Approved 03-Oct-1985

75449P - ROOF EXTENSION AND EXTERNAL ALTERATIONS TO CRICKET PAVILLION (FORMER LIBRARY) – Approved 27-Oct-1993

19/1068M - Listed building consent for the demolition of existing buildings and the residential redevelopment of The King's School Cumberland Street site to provide a mixture of conversion and new build dwellings and 'Later Living' apartments, with associated access, car parking, open space, landscaping and infrastructure – Currently under consideration

In addition to the above, there are other applications which are of relevance as they relate to additional sites associated with Kings School. These applications are relevant because they are part of the schools overall plan to move from this site to their new purpose built school at Alderley Road in Prestbury. These are:

#### Alderley Road, Prestbury:

15/4286M – Construction of a new school comprising classrooms, libraries and supporting facilities together with additional playing fields and various associated outbuildings, infrastructure, car parking and access – Approved 23-Jan-2017

18/6002M - Change of use of land from agricultural use to education and sports and retained as open land for use by the school – Approved 28-Feb-2019

19/1270M - Full planning application for engineering works for outdoor sports facilities to provide a replacement cricket pitch for the King's School site at Cumberland Street- Approved 10-Dec-2019

#### Fence Avenue, Macclesfield:

15/4287M – Outline application for partial change of use and partial demolition of existing buildings and structures, residential development for up to 300 units, landscaping, supporting infrastructure and means of access – Approved 23-Jan-2017

Westminster Road, Macclesfield:

15/4285M – Demolition of existing buildings and structures, residential development up to 150 units, landscaping, supporting infrastructure and access – Approved 23-Jan-2017

18/3545M - Reserved matters approval (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) on Outline application 15/4285M for the erection of 132 dwellings, landscaping and associated infrastructure – Approved 13-Dec-2018

18/4540M - Erection of Retirement Living Housing (Category II type accommodation) and erection of Extra Care Retirement Accommodation for Older People (Use Class C2), with associated communal facilities, landscaping and car parking – Currently under consideration

## **POLICIES**

### **Development Plan**

#### Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy

MP1 Presumption in favour of sustainable development

PG1 Overall Development Strategy

PG2 Settlement hierarchy

PG7 Spatial Distribution of Development

SD1 Sustainable Development in Cheshire East

SD2 Sustainable Development Principles

IN1 Infrastructure

IN2 Developer Contributions

SC1 Leisure and Recreation

SC2 Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities

SC3 Health and wellbeing

SC4 Residential Mix

SC5 Affordable Homes

SE1 Design

SE2 Efficient use of land

SE3 Biodiversity and geodiversity

SE4 The Landscape

SE5 Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland

SE6 Green Infrastructure

SE7 The Historic Environment

SE9 Energy Efficient development

SE12 Pollution, land contamination and land stability

SE13 Flood risk and water management

CO1 Sustainable travel and transport

CO3 Digital connections

CO4 Travel plans and transport assessments

#### Macclesfield Borough Local Plan (saved policies)

RT5 (Open Space Standards)  
RT6 (Recreation/Open Space Provision)  
H9 (Occupation of Affordable Housing)  
DC3 (Amenity)  
DC6 (Circulation and Access)  
DC8 (Landscape)  
DC9 (Tree Protection)  
DC17 (Water Resources)  
DC20 (Contamination of Watercourses)  
DC35 (Materials)  
DC36 (Road Layouts and Circulation)  
DC37 (Landscaping)  
DC38 (Space, Light and Privacy),  
DC40 (Children's Play Provision and Amenity Space)  
DC63 (Contaminated Land)  
NE17 (Nature Conservation in Major Developments)  
T13 (Existing Public Car Parks)

**Other Material Considerations**

National Planning Policy Framework (The Framework)  
National Planning Practice Guidance  
Cheshire East Design Guide

**CONSULTATIONS (External to Planning)**

**ANSA and CEC Leisure** – Comments awaited from ANSA. No objection from Indoor Leisure subject to financial contributions of:

- £19,500 towards indoor sport and recreation to provide 3 additional pieces of equipment at Macclesfield Leisure Centre

**Cadent Gas / National Grid** – No objection but comment that there is an intermediate pressure gas pipeline in the vicinity of the site (running along Coare Street and Westminster Road). It does not appear the proposed works will directly affect the pipeline but request information is attached advising the developer of their obligations.

**Education** – No objection subject to a financial contribution of £274,298 towards secondary and SEN (Special Educational Needs) school places. No primary provision is required.

**Environmental Protection** – No objection subject to conditions and informatives relating to electric vehicle infrastructure, noise mitigation, mechanical ventilation, use of low emission boilers, dust control and contaminated land.

**Flood Risk Manager** – Request further clarification on drainage details.

**Historic England** - No comment to make but advise that advice should be sought from the Council's own archaeologist and conservation services.



**Housing Strategy & Needs Manager** – Object on the basis of reduced affordable housing provision without any justification.

**Head of Strategic Infrastructure (Highways)** – No objection subject to conditions and also the dedication of the pedestrian/cycleway to public highway.

**Natural England** - No comment to make but advise that advice should be sought from the Council's own ecologist and standing advice.

**NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group** – Request a financial contribution of £84,024 to support premises development of the Waters Green Medical Centre and development of additional primary care premises within Macclesfield.

**Sport England** – No objection subject to the approval of application 19/1270M (replacement cricket pitch at Derby Files) and a condition that development is not to commence until the replacement cricket pitch is implemented and brought into use.

**United Utilities** – No objection subject to foul and surface water drainage being connected on separate systems, the submission of a surface water drainage scheme, sustainable drainage management plan and an informative advising that there are two water mains located in the vicinity of the site (outside the site boundary on Cumberland Street).

## **VIEWS OF THE MACCLESFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

Object to the development on the following grounds:

- The design of building type F is inappropriate for the area and not in keeping in form, materials and scale.
- That the design of building type F demonstrates a loss of amenity to existing residences due to the scale and balconies creating loss of privacy due to overlooking, as well as potential loss of light.
- That the Memorial Pavilion should be retained and consideration given to its sustainable future
- Inadequate parking provision, not meeting the local plan policy and the potential impact this will have on adjoining residential streets in terms of increased on street parking and traffic disruption.
- Impact on highways creating a negative impact on Pownall Street as a residential road.
- Impact on highways in failing to address and potentially compound issues faced on Cumberland Street.
- Adverse impact on local air quality
- That there is inadequate provision for electric vehicle charge points on site.
- Loss of amenity green field in the form of the cricket pitch.
- That in the absence of a Traffic Management Strategy for Macclesfield the highways impacts cannot be properly measured or mitigated.
- That the temporary tree preservation orders should be made permanent to provide appropriate long term protection for the trees on the site
- Object to the new designs for Type E and Type F properties on the grounds:
  - Loss of natural light to existing properties

- Direct overlooking from habitable rooms;
- Loss of privacy to existing properties in direct conflict with Local Plan Policy SE1 4 i Ensuring appropriate level of privacy for new and existing residential properties;
- Not meeting distance standards between habitable rooms as per supporting information under SADPD Policy HOU 11.

### **OTHER REPRESENTATIONS**

Representations have been received from over 125 addresses over two periods of consultation including a petition, submissions made by Macclesfield Civic Society, Guild and Chamber of Trade, the Kings School, Stanley and Brocklehurst Almshouses Trust, Cllr Roberts in his capacity as Local Ward Councillor, MP David Rutley and residents and community groups, expressing the following views:

- All of the Kings school sites should have been considered collectively – separation of planning applications
- When considering previous proposals at the other Kings Schools sites, the case was made that this site was of little commercial value and used to justify a lack of affordable housing on these sites
- Proposals are contrary to policy and guidance
- Support the residential use of the site
- Development is not needed for the Council's housing land supply – no strategic need
- Brownfield development is already running ahead of expectations
- Proposal represents an overdevelopment of the site with high density
- Design, layout, scale, height and density of the proposed buildings are not sympathetic to the site and surroundings and will appear prominent
- Use of flats roofs not appropriate
- Lack of affordable housing
- Loss of green open space and playing field
- Demolition of the War Memorial Cricket Pavilion does not respect the memory of those who arranged its construction and those it commemorates
- Cricket pavilion should be repurposed
- War memorial garden will not compensate loss of the cricket pavilion
- Increase in traffic on local highway network
- Lack of parking provision
- Development too close to neighbouring properties resulting in overshadowing and loss of light
- Series of balconies overlooking neighbouring properties would result in overlooking
- Increase in air pollution and impact on air quality and health of residents
- Impact on residential amenity from construction works
- Materials not in keeping (grey brick)
- Coare Street should be closed at its mid point as was planned a few years ago
- The access only onto Coare Street / Pownall Street is continually ignored and this would be made worse
- Impact on trees including those subject of Tree preservation Orders
- The visibility splays required for the access off Coare Street would reduce on street parking for existing residents

- Proposals not sympathetic to the heritage of the site
- Heritage assessments flawed
- Noise nuisance from Coare Street will be made worse with more traffic
- Development will not stand the test of time
- Town has declared a climate change emergency yet the carbon footprint does is a big concern
- Increased risk to safety of children travelling to school
- Use of Pownall Street entrance could impact on amenity
- Loss of iconic views
- Access proposals could create a rat rut
- Impact on drainage and flooding
- Impact on protected species including bats and owls
- Lack of explanation as to planning process
- Lack of information available to assess proposals and uploaded after consultation notification letters sent
- Retention of existing stone boundary walls and potential damage
- Lack of proposals for new trees
- Encroachment into tree root protections areas
- Size and bulk of school extension in relation to the existing school block in excessive and change in roofline will detract from its appearance
- Loss of existing chimneys
- Large expanse of brick work on side elevation of Coare Street block
- Non listed buildings should be treated with similar value to the listed building owing to their group value
- Materials from demolition should be reused within the site
- Unsustainable incursion into minimum root protection area of established trees
- Small gardens
- Unsustainable restrictive covenants
- Inaccuracies in plans
- Subsidence risk
- Vibration to neighbouring properties from construction
- Cycle and walking opportunities very limited and wider connections should be made with Beech Road and Manchester Road
- Scheme should be reviewed by an expert for disabled access
- Electric charging points, charging storage for mobility scooters and adequate bin storage should be included
- Proposal will add much needed vitality to the town centre
- Impact on townscape underestimated
- Pre-consultation process has been flawed
- Lack of co-ordination with other strategic development in the area e.g. Local Development Orders at Whalley Hayes car park and Strategic Regeneration Framework
- Statements made by the applicant are misleading
- CEC found to have previously falsified air quality data
- Retention of boundary walls
- Welcome the replacement Percyvale building

- Emergency vehicle access will be difficult and illegal parking will continue to be a problem
- Construction hours should be limited
- Loss and impact on wildlife
- Existing drainage infrastructure insufficient to support development
- Remembrance gates not wide enough for access
- Other brownfield sites should be utilised

## **OFFICER APPRAISAL**

### **Background**

The application is a full application for the redevelopment of the existing King's School site at Cumberland Street in Macclesfield for residential purposes. This follows the plans to relocate Kings School from its current two separate girls and boys campuses in Macclesfield town to a newly constructed girls and boys school at the site adjacent to the existing Derby Fields off Alderley Road in Prestbury. The King's School are to vacate both Fence Avenue and Westminster Road sites which will be redeveloped for housing. Work to construct the new school is well underway as is the residential development of part of the Westminster Road site. The income from the residential development of the sites will provide financial support to the development of the new school which is scheduled to be completed this summer.

### **Principle of Development**

Sec.38 (6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that planning applications and appeals must be determined "*in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise*". The National Planning Policy Framework reinforces a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' and states that decisions that accord with an up to date development plan should be approved without delay.

Macclesfield is identified as one of the 'principal' towns in Cheshire East where CELPS Policy PG 2 seeks to direct 'significant development' to the towns in order to 'support their revitalisation', recognising their roles as the most important settlements in the borough. Development will maximise the use of existing infrastructure and resources to allow jobs, homes and other facilities to be located close to each other and accessible by public transport.

In this case, the provision of 115 no. units would be of an acceptable scale relative to the principal town of Macclesfield and would deliver housing within a highly sustainable location adjoining the Town Centre Boundary which bounds Cumberland Street to the south. The site is largely brownfield in nature and therefore its redevelopment to provide homes in such a highly sustainable location aligns with the general principles of national and local policy.

In terms of other designations, the central part of the site is designated as open space with the remainder of the site designated as a predominantly residential area, which the proposed residential use would conform to. CELPS Policy SC 2 advises that existing outdoor sports facilities should be protected unless they are shown to be surplus to requirements or improved alternative provision is provided. A large extent of the open space is to be retained

as amenity space and in any event, the losses incurred would be replaced in terms of quantum at the school's new site and are subject of approval under planning ref; 19/1270M.

Having regard to the above, the general principle of the development is found to be acceptable. As per para 11 of the Framework and CELPS Policy MP 1, there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) and compliance with the Development Plan.

### **SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

#### **Housing Land Supply**

The Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy was adopted on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and forms part of the statutory development plan. The plan sets out the overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and makes sufficient provision for housing (36,000 new dwellings over the plan period, equating to 1,800 dwellings per annum) in order to meet the objectively assessed needs of the area.

Planning law requires that applications for planning permission be determined in accordance with the development plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Where a planning application conflicts with an up-to-date development plan (including any neighbourhood plans that form part of the development plan), permission should not usually be granted.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) identifies the circumstances in which relevant development plan policies should be considered out-of-date.

These are:

- Where a local planning authority cannot demonstrate a five year supply of deliverable housing sites (with appropriate buffer) or:
- Under transitional arrangements, where the Housing Delivery Test Measurement 2018 indicates that the delivery of housing was substantially below 25% of housing required over the previous three years (note: this will change to 45% once the Housing Delivery Test Measurement 2019 is published later this year).

In accordance with the NPPF, the council produces an annual update of housing delivery and housing land supply. The council's most recent Housing Monitoring Update (base date 31 March 2019) was published on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019. The report confirms:

- A five year housing requirement of 11,802 net additional dwellings. This includes an adjustment to address historic shortfalls in delivery and the application of a 5% buffer.
- A deliverable five year housing land supply of 7.5 years (17,333 dwellings).

The 2018 Housing Delivery Test Result was published by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and this confirms a Cheshire East Housing Delivery Test Result of 183%. Housing delivery over the past three years (5,610

dwelling) has exceeded the number of homes required (3,067). The publication of the HDT result affirms that the appropriate buffer to be applied to the calculation of housing land supply in Cheshire East is 5%.

Relevant policies concerning the supply of housing should therefore be considered up-to-date and consequently the 'tilted balance' at paragraph 11 of the NPPF is not engaged.

### **Affordable Housing**

The Cheshire East Local Plan (CELP) and the Councils Interim Planning Statement: Affordable Housing (IPS) states in settlements with a population of 3,000 or more, the Council will negotiate for the provision of an appropriate element of the total dwelling provision to be for affordable housing on all unidentified 'windfall' sites of 15 dwellings or more or larger than 0.4 hectares in size. The desired target percentage for affordable housing for all such sites will be a minimum of 30%, in accordance with the recommendations of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment carried out in 2013. This percentage relates to the provision of both social rented and/or intermediate housing, as appropriate. Normally the Council would expect a ratio of 65/35 between social rented and intermediate housing.

This is a proposed development of 115 dwellings therefore in order to meet the Council's Policy on Affordable Housing there is a requirement for 35 dwellings to be provided as affordable dwellings.

The CELP states in Policy SC5 justification paragraph 12.44, 'The Housing Development Study shows that there is the objectively-assessed need for affordable housing for a minimum of 7,100 dwellings over the plan period, which equates to an average of 355 dwellings per year.' This is for the whole borough of Cheshire East.

The current number of those on the Cheshire Homechoice waiting list with Macclesfield as their first choice is 1488. This can be broken down to 827 x 1 bedroom, 413 x 2 bedroom, 173 x 3 bedroom, 45 x 4 bedroom and 30 x 5 bedroom dwellings.

The waiting list also shows a requirement for 142 x 1 bedroom, 9 x 2 bedroom and 2 x 3 bedroom Older Person dwellings. These dwellings can be via flats, cottage style flats, bungalows and lifetime adaptable homes. 23 units should be provided as Affordable rent and 12 units as Intermediate tenure.

If there is an agreed onsite provision that is below 30% or a commuted sum is agreed, Housing will require an Overage/Clawback clause to be agreed. This is to cover any uplift in value on the development during its completion and any connected raise in commuted sum amounts or increased on site provision for Affordable Housing.

The applicant on both the original and amended documentation/plans shows only 10 Intermediate 2 and 3 bedroom house dwellings being provided. This is 25 dwellings under the 30% requirement (35). In the absence of any justification, the Council's Strategic Housing Section has objected to the application based on the shortfall of affordable units. However, this application is the subject of a viability appraisal which states that the proposed development cannot bear the full quantum of affordable housing as it would make the development unviable insofar as it would not yield a sufficient gross development value

(GDV) which would be attractive enough for a developer to bring the site forward. The applicant has now submitted a full viability appraisal and this is currently being independently appraised by a consultant instructed by the Council. The conclusions and recommendations of this appraisal will be reported to Members by way of an update as will the exact level of affordable housing that should be secured within the heads of terms of the s106 legal agreement.

## **Housing Mix**

Local Plan Policy SC 4 identifies the need for housing developments to offer a mix of housing types, size and tenures to accommodate the specific requirements of the demographic. Reference is made to the need for development proposals to accommodate units specifically designed for the elderly and people who require specialist accommodation. A range of housing types are being proposed from modestly sized apartments to later living accommodation. A number of family houses are also proposed as well as bungalow type accommodation, so the proposals would provide for a diverse range of housing, and correspondingly, a diverse community. As such, the scheme is found to comply with Local Plan Policy SC 4.

## **Education**

In the case of the current proposal for 96 dwellings (2 bed+), the Council's Children's Services have advised that a development of this size this would generate:

- 17 primary children (96 x 0.19)
- 14 secondary children (96 x 0.15)
- 1 SEN children (96 x 0.51 x 0.023%)

The development is expected to impact on both primary school and secondary places in the immediate locality. Any contributions which have been negotiated on other developments are factored into the forecasts undertaken by the Council's Children's Services both in terms of the increased pupil numbers and the increased capacity at schools in the area as a result of agreed financial contributions. The analysis undertaken has identified that there remains a shortfall in school places at secondary level.

Children's Service's has confirmed that the proposal is not expected to impact primary education provision as there is sufficient capacity in the catchment area to absorb the primary school pupils likely to be generated by the proposed development.

Special education provision within Cheshire East Council currently has a shortage of places available with at present over 47% of pupils educated outside of the Borough. Whilst it is acknowledged that this is an existing issue, the 1 child with special educational needs (SEN) expected from this development will exacerbate the shortfall.

To alleviate forecast pressures, the following contributions would therefore be required:

- 14 x £17,959 x 0.91 = £228, 798 (secondary)
- 1 x £50,000 x 0.91 = £45,500 (SEN)
- Total education contribution: £274,298

Without a secured contribution of £274,298, Children's Services would raise an objection to this application. This position is on the grounds that the proposed development would have a detrimental impact upon local education provision as a direct cause from the development. Without the mitigation, 14 secondary children and 1 SEN child would not have a school place. The applicant has confirmed acceptance of the secondary and SEN requirement. This will be secured by way of a s106 legal agreement.

## **Healthcare**

The NHS Eastern Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has commented that *"there are six NHS GP practices within Macclesfield, all located within one building at the Waters Green Medical Centre. Based on the current local population, the Waters Green Medical Centre has sufficient capacity to manage currently registered patients. However, with the known planned housing developments, the local population is predicted to increase by approximately 17% over the next 10 years. In order to be able to continue to provide the current high level of primary care services to the local population the six GP practices will be required to review their current model of working. A model of 'working at scale' will be required, in which the six GP practices work much more closely together to remove duplication and inefficiencies from the primary care system. Even with modifications to the existing Waters Green Medical Centre, it is anticipated that the GP practices and NHS Community Services will need to expand out into an additional building within the next 10 years"*.

It is therefore necessary to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development through funding the local healthcare economy to support premises development of the Waters Green Medical Centre and development of additional primary care premises within Macclesfield in order to allow for the continued provision of the current level of primary care services to the local population of the Macclesfield area. Accordingly, the CCG has requested a financial contribution towards health infrastructure of £84,024. Subject to this, the scheme is found to be acceptable in terms of its impact on health infrastructure.

## **Public Open Space**

Policies RT5 and DC40 of the MBLP set out the amenity open space requirements for housing development (per dwelling). The proposals would place a greater burden on open space and recreational facilities in the area and accordingly, the applicants would be expected to make a financial contribution towards the Borough Council's sports, recreational and open space facilities in lieu of on-site provision. The Macclesfield S106 Supplementary Planning Guidance on S106 Agreements provides the formulae for calculating off site financial contributions.

The loss of the existing cricket pitch as a sports facility would be replaced at the new school in Prestbury. Sport England and the ANSA do not object to the loss of the cricket pitch on this basis subject to a condition that the replacement facility is to be provided and made available for use prior to its loss at this site. This could be appended as a condition of approval.

There is a requirement for the provision of amenity greenspace at a rate of 20sqm per dwelling and this is being achieved through the retention and enhancement of the existing



cricket pitch as open amenity space. There is also a requirement for 20sqm of children's play per dwelling and this is not being provided on site. Therefore a commuted sum for offsite provision of children's play is required at a rate of £1,500 per family dwelling and £750 per bed space in apartments. The com sum is required upon commencement of development and will be used to make additions, enhancements and improvements at West Park Play facilities within a period of 15 years from receipt.

There is a requirement to provide Recreation and Outdoor Sport (ROS) in line with Policy SC2 of the Local Plan and the playing Pitch Strategy. In this instance the developer has opted to make a contribution rather than on-site provision. This contribution will equate to £1,000 per family dwelling or £500 per 1 / 2 bed apartment (excluding the affordable properties). This commuted sum would be used to make additions, enhancements and improvements at the pitches, courts and greens within the three town centre parks in Macclesfield; West, South and Victoria, within a period of 15 years from receipt.

With respect to indoor sports provision, CEC Leisure has confirmed that based on a development of 115 dwellings, this could equate to a population increase of 185 and 79 additional 'active' population. Based on an industry average of 25 users per piece of health and fitness equipment this equates to 3 stations (£6,500 per fitness station) which would require a financial contribution of £19, 500.

Subject to the above being secured by way of a legal agreement, the scheme is found to accord with MBLP Policies RT5 and DC40 and CELPS Policies SC 1 and SC2.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

### **Design, Character and Appearance**

Between them, the NPPF and Local Plan Policies SD1, SD2, SC4, SC5, SE1, SE4 and C01 from the CELPS and DC8, DC35, DC36 and DC37 of the MBLP seek that all development should be: locally distinctive; high quality; sustainable; well-designed and durable responding to the heights, scale, form and grouping, materials, massing, green infrastructure and relationship to existing built form in the immediate as well as wider areas. Good connections through infrastructure and access from the site into the wider area and landscaping/topographical themes through street hierarchy and landscaping is also expected from new development.

The proposals seek to retain and convert the headmaster's house and library, removing unsympathetic extensions and detracting buildings within its vicinity. They also seek to convert the lodge as a single dwelling whilst also retaining most of the existing boundary wall around the perimeter of the site.

In regard to the main school building, the façade of the front elevation is proposed to be retained with a new block of development to the rear also replacing the sports hall attached to the northern elevation of the building. The remaining curtilage buildings, including both the science block and the cricket pavilion are proposed to be demolished.

In terms of new development, a number of building groupings are proposed of different character reflecting their location and relationships comprising archetypes ranging from 1.5 to

3.5 storey arising from conversions and new build, with a variety of on plot and communal parking solutions.

The proposed new build is expressed by a contemporary character but with echoes of traditional vernacular drawn from the site, local surroundings and precedents much further afield.

A large proportion of the cricket pitch is to be retained as an informally laid out central green, incorporating a stone lined ha-ha and swale on its eastern edge, further reinforced by hedging forming the rear boundary of the adjacent housing. In addition, designed courtyard/garden spaces are proposed north of the headmaster's house/original school and between the new block and retained elements of the main school building. The headmaster's garden would also be retained. Further public gardens/space would be created in the form of parterres to the front of the retained main school building and as a home zone street running through the centre of the new housing on the eastern portion of the site. All mature significant trees are to be retained but it is proposed to remove and replace the flowering Cherry trees to the front of the main school building.

There would be one main vehicular access point off Cumberland Street, retaining the memorial gates, with a second emergency access off Pownall Street. The basement car park serving what would be the block to the rear of the main school building would be served via an upgraded access off Coare Street. Pedestrian access would be via the main site entrance but also with an east west axis between Westminster Road and Pownall Street.

Longer views of the site are largely restricted by topography, street alignment and intervening townscape. However the sylvan character of the site does terminate longer, northward views along Churchill Way and Westminster Road. Closer to the site views for those on foot are largely restricted by the substantial stone walls and adjacent buildings. However, the view does open up significantly on Cumberland Street on approach from the west and also standing at the main site entrance. The headmaster's house and gardens are attractive and sylvan on the corner of Westminster Road and Coare Street.

**Area 1 - to the north of the old school and main school buildings** - The present buildings detract from the heritage assets and the general quality of the townscape of Coare Street. It is considered that the new development will enhance this frontage of the site. In regard to the materiality of the 3 townhouses to the north of the original school building, grey brick is referenced but so is stone. This will be crucial given the relationship to the principal listed building on the site and it is recommended that this element be conditioned to be in stone.

The new build to the north of the main school building would be largely hidden by the roof of the retained building. However, at either end, the upper storey would extend above the roofline of the existing, affecting its hipped roof silhouette. This would undermine the view of the main school building from the main entrance and the open space but significantly.

**Area 2 - site entrance and Percyvale building, Pownall Street** - The new houses would replace the Percy Vale building, which is a relatively unattractive building with inactive frontage onto the street, as are the temporary buildings at the site entrance. The key issues in this area relate to scale and appropriateness of proposals in the townscape, and linked to that, relationship to adjacent residential properties. The proposal have been amended in

respond to concerns about this relationship and have lead to a better townscape approach to the Pownall Street entrance.

The street sections produced as part of the application illustrate that the new buildings would sit comfortably in the street, repair the townscape and create more active frontages onto Pownall Street but for the main block the gardens/yards would be modest (but not uncharacteristic in an urban context such as this).

**Area 3 site of Science block** - This part of the scheme will replace one of the 2 curtilage listed buildings proposed to be demolished, albeit of a lesser quality than the adjacent main school building. The science block building reads as a respectful member of the group. It is important that any replacement building is of equal architectural merit. The design of these units is more akin to the design of the dwellings on Pownall Street, which have a modest, domestic character. Although it would be more hidden from the principal view than the Science block is now.

**Area 4 – proposed later living block (western edge of site)** - The footprint of the proposed new building, whilst being set slightly further away, will be larger than the size of the current arts block building it would replace, which occupies much of the western edge of the site. The size of this building has been reduced in size following concerns that its size and position could harm a key view and setting of the listed building. It will also be set further forward than the original building, tying in with the western building line of the listed building.

The later living building has two different faces: The eastern elevation that would overlook the open space and relate more directly to the historic buildings, echoing the steep gables of the original school building, but set within a contemporary design. The building would be 3 full storeys plus a storey within a mansard type roof and the apexes of projecting gables. The western side the building is a more overtly contemporary flat roof design with a recessed upper storey (again accommodating 4 floors). The southern end of the building is proposed as a flat roof, 3 storey element, including entrance/lobby and communal facilities on the upper floors, including a roof terrace.

From outside the site, the proposed later living building will be highly visible in views from the corner of Westminster Road and Cumberland Street and would become a strident feature in the townscape, closing off the partially open view into the site. On this basis, the Council's Design Officer has expressed concern regarding the impact that the Later Living element would have on key viewpoints and the associated impact on the setting of the heritage assets.

The Design Officer notes that the building has been reduced in length and there has been some consequent improvement. However, there is still concern that it will compete with the listed school building within its setting resulting in harm to the asset. This would be less than substantial but it would still be harm and there is not sufficient heritage public benefit alone to outweigh that. However, it must be borne in mind that the viewpoint from which this harm would be evident would be limited. The open aspect of the cricket pitch and its associated views of the listed building would still be mostly retained and it is only when viewing the site from the opposite side of Cumberland Street to the south on the Westminster Road access to Whalley Hayes Public Car Park where there would be an interruption of this view. It is not considered that this is a significant viewpoint and does not carry the main footfall past the site. The main footfall including vehicular traffic is that along Cumberland Street and to some

extent, these view from a pedestrian point of view are already obscured in part by the existing boundary wall. Accordingly, whilst there would be harm it is considered that this would be balanced against the wider benefits of the scheme particularly the improvements that would be realised from the Sainsbury's roundabout.

There will be a degree of impact upon the setting of the Alms houses, but this will be lessened by the mature trees along the southern boundary and by the height of the substantial stone wall to the school. Again this will be more evident during the late autumn and winter. Communal surface car parking is proposed to the rear of the building, which benefits the views from the entrance and the central open space, but because of site levels, will be quite visible from outside the site for part of its length.

**Area 5 eastern edge of the site** - This is a highly innovative part of the development, but also one that requires a sensitive approach given that views across the cricket pitch will terminate on these units. The proposal is to create a mix of contemporary dwellings set either side of a home zone street, providing a gradation in scale to the site edge from the edge of the central open space, whilst enabling views from the open space outward between buildings to outlying landscape and enabling taller units on the periphery to have views back across rooftops to the central space. This part of the scheme incorporates the site of the cricket pavilion.

The form of the dwellings is designed to echo the surrounding vernacular but in a contemporary manner, including steep roof pitches and active upper storeys reflective of Macclesfield's weaver's cottages. Smaller dwellings edging the open space seek to reflect the Alms houses to the south of the site.

To soften the impact and relationship the design has been refined to provide a more sinuous edge, defined by hedge and Ha-ha to soften the relationship to the open space, provide a distinct boundary between public and private and create a fragmented rather than regular built form. Whilst there will be a noticeable reduction in the extent of the open space on this side of the site, it is considered less sensitive in the context of the principal view from the memorial gates and the proposed layout maintains a visual link between the principal school buildings and the listed gatehouse. It would lead to loss of the cricket pavilion.

Lastly, there has always been some reservation about the housing on the immediate easterly edge of the former playing field and how those dwellings and their external spaces relate to the main space, their living environment and how the day to day needs of these occupants can be met without compromising the success of the main public space. This requires those needs to be thought through and creative design employed to successfully overcome those concerns: the need for 'designed in' storage, for creating privacy and to enable use of the outside space of the garden without it feeling like living under a microscope. Conditions relating to landscaping and boundary treatments could secure appropriate detail.

**Scheme wide design considerations - Land use/mix** - It is proposed that the site be used solely for residential development but a variety of different housing typologies are proposed, suiting different age groups and family circumstances. This has the potential to create a diverse community within the development and is a key attribute of the scheme.

The site is highly accessible to the town centre with easy access to a wide range of amenities and employment opportunities and public transport.

**Architectural approach** - As discussed previously, in concept terms, it is appropriate to employ a contemporary design approach as long as it is well informed and reflects local character and vernacular. Significant effort has gone into assessing the local context, and whilst specific localised design issues have already been highlighted, the general concept of a contemporary interpretation of vernacular is considered valid and an acceptable design response for this site.

**Pedestrian/cycle movement** – Although there are presently gated accesses into the school, the site is not accessible for the public. The scheme would enable pedestrians to move through the site, better connecting it into the neighbourhood. It is important for the sustainability of the development that it does not become a gated community and that through access is encouraged and a key benefit of the scheme.

**Access and parking** – The concept relies on a specific, non-standard approach to streets with a one-way route around the site, to reduce the width of roads and ensure they retain a human scale. From an urban design perspective this is positive in terms of principle and will need to be secured by condition. In respect to parking provision, this is a town centre site and therefore less car usage and ownership should be encouraged.

**Open space, landscape and public realm** – in concept terms there is a character driven, sympathetic approach to open space and landscape design seeking to reflect the spirit and historic significance of the site. The openness and informality of the main open space is a strong reflection of its former use as a cricket pitch and maintains open views of the key heritage assets. This will act as a significant community focus for the scheme. The eastern edge treatment using a swale and stone ha-ha is also a positive and innovative way to define the edge between public and private, whilst meeting certain practical requirements such as sustainable drainage.

The other localised spaces such as courtyards, the Headmasters garden and the home zone street should also provide opportunities to create distinct areas of space/public realm within the scheme.

**Materiality** - The scheme proposes a predominantly brick palette, which seems appropriate for the most part given the surrounding context and within the site itself. However, more stone could be used in selective locations/elements, without undermining the building hierarchy and heritage status of retained buildings and features. The materiality of the townhouse block to the north of the original school building and the later living block to the south indicates that grey brick is suggested in the. However, stone is referenced elsewhere. Owing to the sensitivity of the site, prominence of the 'later living' block including the balance of the impact on views, this will need to be stone. Detailed materials can be agreed by way of condition.

On several of the building designs, soldier coursing and feature brick are proposed as detailing elements. Care is needed to prevent this becoming an inferior, generic detail and therefore further detail can be secured by condition.

Powder coated aluminium windows/fenestration are proposed on the new build, with timber on the conserved buildings. This would be appropriate to help reinforce the contrast between historic and new build. Detailing of the eaves and verges, parapets, rainwater goods, canopies and balconies needs to be executed well to emphasise design quality. Zinc cladding is proposed quite widely within the scheme but perhaps copper would be more appropriate given the historical copper industry in the town. Slate is proposed as the principal roofing material and that should help the roofscape harmonise with retained buildings and the surrounding townscape.

It is positive that traditional floorscape will be employed alongside contemporary materials to help characterise the site. The stone sett footpaths, laid as a Macclesfield cobble pattern around the western edge of the open space and along the east west axis will help pedestrians navigate through the site and create a physical link from the stone concentrated entrance toward the historic buildings on the northern side of the open space.

Whilst it is acknowledged that there would be an intrusion of the 'later living' block, this has been reduced in size and it is considered that this is balanced against the improvements that would be seen from the Sainsbury's roundabout and the overall design credentials of the scheme. There are also benefits derived from ensuring a sustainable future use is secured for such an important and prominent site within Macclesfield from a heritage perspective. Thus, the proposals represent a high quality scheme, with many positive attributes. There would be harm derived from the later living block, by interrupting one of the viewpoints. However, it is considered that this harm would be outweighed by the wider benefits of the scheme and the fact that the magnitude (i.e. importance) of the said viewpoint is not considered significant.

Having regard to the above, the design is found to be acceptable and in accordance with Policies SE 1 and SD 2 of the CELPS and the CEC Design Guide.

### **Heritage Assets**

The alterations proposed for the change of use of the principal listed building on this site, (currently in use as a library and Headmasters house) are:

Internally: The closing up of many current door openings to allow separation (for apartments), there will also be the introduction of new studwork (timber and plasterboard stud portions) to form new bathrooms kitchens etc. Additionally there will be new staircases to modify the current internal layout. The ventilation requirements do need further information, but could be conditioned. Given the previous work undertaken within the building, these proposed alterations can be accommodated within the fabric of the existing building without detracting from its historic significance and will help with the general internal condition of the building.

Externally: The South, West and East elevations: The lengthening of the current Gothic windows (lowering of the existing sills) with a new transom detail to accommodate the interface with the new internal floor line and the redesign of these windows (alteration to transoms) to accommodate for new opening when viewed from a distance will not appear to alter the view of the current Library building, although there will be some change to the historic fabric. The Council's Design and Conservation Officer does not object to this.

North Elevation: The demolition of a non-original part of the building is proposed with the insertion of contemporary glazing into part of this elevation exposed by the demolition. This is acceptable to the listed building as it will reveal the original fabric of this elevation and therefore serves as benefit of the scheme. The proposed works while losing some of the original fabric of the building will allow this building to be brought into a new use as apartments without losing its essential architectural appearance and thus save this building for future generations to enjoy.

In regard to boundary walls, the proposals generally seek retention and repair. Some localised modification will occur but this will not lead to harm to the character of the walls in their entirety and planning conditions could be used to ensure this.

In addition to the conservation works to the principal buildings, the proposal also intends the demolition of the two pre-1948 buildings falling within the curtilage: the science block and the pavilion, which as the assessment identifies, are subject to the same protection and considerations as those for the principal listed buildings.

Both have significance in their own right. However, they also have an enhanced collective value as part of the Kings ensemble, with the cricket pitch as their foreground. The relationship between the pitch and the cricket pavilion is especially strong. As it stands, demolition would result in total loss of these two curtilage buildings and there would be harm as a consequence.

The submitted heritage statement sets out the assessment of significance undertaken for the various assets. Both the science block and the pavilion are assessed as having low significance. This is a fair reflection of the significance of the Science Block. It was initially considered that it did not adequately reflect the communal significance of the cricket pavilion, thought to be built to commemorate the fallen of WWI. This historic connection is something very important to the school, reflected both in the pavilion but also the memorial within the Main School building and the memorial gates (WWII).

Whilst the DMRB methodology rightly identifies greater significance attached to the principal listed buildings, the main school building, and the enclosing structures, it does not enable a more subtle distinction when assessing these lesser assets. The added communal value of the pavilion clearly sets it apart from the science block in terms of significance.

The present group of buildings forming the School as viewed from the south have a strong group value. However, from Coare Street and Pownall Street, the school has a lower group value arising from the modern elements that are of low architectural quality except the original school and headmaster's house at the corner of Coare Street and Westminster Road. The removal and replacement of more modern and unsympathetic extensions and buildings on the northern side of the main school buildings will enable betterment, whereas the proposed demolitions of the science block and pavilion will erode the present group value experienced from the main viewpoint. It is considered that, at best, the significance of heritage impact would result in slight/moderate harm based on the current proposals.

Impact upon the setting of the assets - The setting of heritage assets is defined in policy as the surroundings within which assets are experienced and often this is expressed in terms of views. The setting of the assets at Kings are interrelated and contribute to one another, including that of the Alms houses to the south of Cumberland Street. The principal view of the

heritage assets is that from the site entrance toward the north. But the Kings setting is more than just this view; it is also about atmosphere within the site. The openness within the front part of the site contributes greatly to this, albeit it is not a formal or designed space. It epitomises King's. Views out from buildings across the space and from the cricket pitch toward the hills to the east of the town also contribute toward the setting of the assets, creating a visual connection to the wider landscape.

The area of concern in terms of setting is the proposed development in the western part of the site, forward of the headmaster's house and the original school building. As already discussed, the proposals for the later living block will be far more strident by virtue of the scale and mass of the building. Whilst it may not be any taller than the Art block, or the ridge line of the old school building, its footprint is larger than that of the building to be demolished and it will enclose much of the western side of the site as seen in the view from the site entrance off Cumberland Street. However, it is considered that this aspect of openness will be restricted to a limited view and the benefits of the scheme as a whole are considered to outweigh this harm as discussed previously in this report.

### **Cricket Pavilion and Memorials**

In respect to the loss of the cricket pavilion, many representations have expressed concern at its loss and state that it should either be retained, relocated on site or at the new school site. However, the school has in response submitted their own representation on this matter in the form of a Memorial Statement.

The submission set out primarily how the school seeks to continue to honour those former staff and pupils that have lost their lives in conflict and also to clarify the form that the existing memorials take.

Firstly, the school's memorial plans will take the form of:

- 900 seat assembly hall at the new school campus which will be the principal memorial facility
- Relocation of the physical memorials to new school site
- Replica of the war memorial gates to the Cumberland Street entrance to be erected at the new school site
- Lintel within the existing cricket pavilion reading 'In Memoriam, 1914-18' to be incorporated into new cricket pavilion

The existing memorials take the form of:

- Cumberland Street hall war memorial plaques listing the names of the fallen
- War memorial gates to the Cumberland Street entrance
- Memorial lintel in the cricket pavilion

The school states that the cricket pavilion does not play a role in commemoration or remembrance and proper homage to the fallen is performed by the main memorials and will be by those that are planned at the new school. The cricket pavilion was originally constructed in 1934 as a library and pavilion partly using funds left over from donations following WW2. An alcove was left to indicate the source of part of the funds where an



inscription was later placed reading 'In Memoriam, 1914-18'. The school states that the principal memorial takes the form of the plaques that were erected in the main school hall. However, as a new cricket pitch at the new school site will be required at some point, the existing lintel with the inscription 'In Memoriam, 1914-18' could be incorporated into the new pavilion with further references to its history included within.

Taking this into account, there is an opportunity to ensure that the loss of the cricket pavilion is replaced with a high quality memorial proposal to compensate for its loss. This would need to be of extremely high quality and should be designed to add to the quality of the place, whilst also ensuring continuation of the memorial connection with the school at its new site. This could take the form of an interpretation of the wider history of the school (e.g. history boards), of which part would be the remembrance of those ex pupils lost in conflict. This would add weight to the commemoration and help raise awareness within the community and future residents of this historic connection. Coupled with the applicants proposal for the memorial garden within the site, would be a positive, it is considered that the loss of the cricket pavilion would be acceptable in the context of the proposals for both this site and those planned at the site of the new school.

### Archaeology

The application site is not within an area of identified archaeological potential and accordingly the proposal is found to be acceptable in this regard and compliant with Macclesfield Borough Local Plan Policies BE23, BE24 and SE 7 of the Cheshire East Local Plan.

### Trees

Policy SE5 of the CELPS states *"Development proposals which will result in the loss of, or threat to, the continued health and life expectancy of trees, hedgerows or woodlands (including veteran trees or ancient semi-natural woodland), that provide a significant contribution to the amenity, biodiversity, landscape character or historic character of the surrounding area, will not normally be permitted, except where there are clear overriding reasons for allowing the development and there are no suitable alternatives"*.

The site contains a number of mature trees located adjacent to Westminster Road and its junction with Coare Street, Cumberland Street and the eastern boundary of the site. Many of the trees contribute significantly to the character and visual amenity of the area and provide important mature tree canopy cover. A row of mature Cherry trees located towards the northern boundary section provide a decorative feature separating the cricket pitch and the main school building.

Trees within the site are not currently protected by a Tree Preservation Order, although many are worthy of formal protection given their high amenity value. The site lies outside the Macclesfield Town Centre Conservation Area which lies to the south of the site.

The application is supported by a detailed Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA). A Tree Survey that forms part of the assessment has identified 18 individual trees, 8 groups of trees and 5 hedgerows associated with the site. Three trees have been categorised as (A) high category specimens, 9 trees and 5 groups or part of groups have been identified as moderate (B) Category.

One individual moderate (B) category Oak tree, T14, (a memorial planting) at the front of the main school building, the linear group of Cherry trees and a number of low (C) category Cypress trees within the proposed memorial planting bed and some low category ornamental trees will require removal to accommodate the internal access, car parking and new landscaping arrangements

The Council's Principal Forestry and Arboricultural Officer has advised that the loss of the Oak and a group of low category Cherry trees will have a 'slight adverse' impact within the immediate area, given the trees can be viewed from the current access. In terms of the wider amenity such losses are not considered significant. In terms of mitigation for losses, there is scope within the development site for replacement planting which should be considered on a 3:1 basis. The application is supported by a draft landscaping plan which proposes planting of pleached Pin Oak and semi mature Cherry within the area of proposed parking. Such planting within areas of hard standing will require substantial tree pits to ensure successful establishment requiring a detailed design proposal as part of any detailed landscaping scheme.

The layout indicates parts of the development infrastructure will encroach into Root Protection Areas (RPA) of retained trees although existing hard surfacing has been utilised where possible for access roads and car parking. Encroachment is predominantly restricted to the realignment and widening of the main access road to the south of the site and north of the group of trees along Cumberland Street Road, the proposed parking area and the access road west of the mature Lime adjacent to the gatehouse, a section of footpath to provide access to the Lodge House, rear garden terracing adjacent to a mature Lime and a small section of driveway adjacent to a mature Lime to the east of the site. A Cellular Confinement System (CCS) has been proposed for these areas of permanent hard standing to avoid excavation and compaction within the RPA and given the site characteristics is considered to be within the design parameters of the relevant British Standard (ref: BS5837:2012).

Design advice on social proximity and shading from trees is referred to in the accompanying AIA. Having regard to the western section of the site, the proposed housing is separated by car parking and is between 13-15 metres from retained trees (G2). Whilst some shading is anticipated during the afternoon hours, the majority of the area affected will be within the area designated for car parking. The proposed end use of space within this area is therefore considered sustainable.

Shading from trees T15/T16 and Group G1 adjacent to the Gate House/Lodge and opposite the D2 Plot to the north and Group G6 to the east of the site are considered in the AIA. With regard to the existing Lodge, issues of shading from trees are long established and has not presented any issues. It is recognised that shading to the Plot to the north of the Lodge from trees may be an issue, but is partly offset by the orientation of the building and provision of open space to the west which supplements the impact on private amenity space.

The Council's Principal Forestry and Arboricultural Officer has previously expressed concern with regard to the relationship of the proposed units to the east of the site facing the mature group of trees (G6) to the rear of Pownall Street. Three Plots are located less than 9 metres from tree stems and 3.5 metres from the edge of crown spreads and could present unreasonable dominance and shading of gardens and rooms and will have an adverse effect

on living conditions which will lead to future requests to carry out regular pruning/felling Whilst it is noted that the trees have been placed outside private ownership, the presentation of these plots to the group of trees is considered unsustainable in the long term. However, scope for improving separation distances conflicts with other constraints on the site, namely ensuring that the cricket pitch maintains an open aspect and therefore in this case, it is considered that this need and the general benefits of the scheme outweigh this conflict.

The proposed amendments present no significant implications for existing trees. Accordingly, there are no objections from an arboricultural perspective and the proposals have been confirmed to be acceptable in terms of impacts on trees subject to the imposition of conditions to ensure appropriate tree protection for the retained trees, Construction Specification/Method Statement and Arboricultural Method Statement. Subject to this, the scheme is found to accord with CELPS Policy SE 5 and would not harm trees that are subject to Trees Preservation Order.

### **Landscaping**

The application is supported by a Townscape and Visual Impact Assessment (TVIA). The Council's Senior Landscape Architect agrees with the following statement regarding visual effects:

*"Views of the site are predominantly localised to the immediate setting. Longer distance views are generally prevented by the intervening built form of the town and interspersed areas of vegetation which characterises the wider landscape setting."*

A series of visualisations was requested to assess the impact of the development on close range views.

The proposed development would enhance the streetscene of Coare Street and Pownall Street. However, the height and mass of the proposed extra care block on land that's elevated above the surrounding public realm would have a substantial visual effect on receptors on Westminster Road and Cumberland Street, particularly in the roundabout junction area and especially during the winter months when the surrounding trees are without foliage. The TVIA assesses the visual effect from the roundabout area (viewpoint 15) as a medium magnitude of change and a moderate and minor adverse effect on receptors. The Council's Senior Landscape Architect considers that this is underestimated. However, whilst it may be underestimated, the key consideration is whether the magnitude of change is harmful from a landscape perspective.

The landscape chapter of the Design and Access Statement divides the site into character areas as follows:

Area 1: The northern area - The proposals around the school block, library and new buildings are mainly formal in character and include a courtyard, ornamental pool, box hedge parterres with replacement cherry trees on the school frontage, pleached trees etc. The headmaster's gardens at the north west corner would be retained and enhanced. The proposals are generally appropriate but I recommend that the visitor car park in front of the school block should be amended to widen the plant bed at the front of the car park to screen the cars. This detail could be secured by conditioning a detailed landscaping scheme.

Area 2: New housing development and entrance off Pownall Street - The landscape proposals for the site entrance and frontage for the new dwellings on the science block site are acceptable. The new houses backing onto the Pownall Street properties would have very small gardens shaded by the mature boundary trees. However, having regard to the character of the area, the town centre nature of the site and the access that residents would have to a large area of open space within the site itself, the lack of any prescribed garden size in the current Development Plan, the garden areas are considered to be of an acceptable size.

The new houses backing onto the public open space would also have very small gardens which would be open to public view if the currently proposed low hedge boundaries were implemented. The lack of privacy for residents and open views of garden paraphernalia from the public space is not appropriate owing to visual sensitivities of the site. Accordingly, some clever design solutions are required to maintain views whilst screening Gardens. It is therefore recommended that 1.8m vertical bar railings plus 1.8m instant evergreen hedges on these boundaries to provide screening and security and prevent residents erecting non-matching fences in the long-term would be appropriate. This detail could be secured by way of a boundary treatment condition.

The Council's Senior Landscape Architect has confirmed that the central 'garden street' with rain gardens, box headed trees etc. could form an attractive communal area and this would be a key attribute.

Area 3: Later Living Area - Low hedges are proposed around the small ground floor patios facing the open space. A new hedgerow and 4 new trees are proposed to the rear of the building.

Area 4: Main Entrance and Central open space - The memorial gates and piers would be retained and a new stone wall built to enclose the gatehouse.

The ha-ha, swale and stone walls could be an attractive feature. This is subject to the walls being constructed using traditional stone with a substantial coping in keeping with the local historic walls rather than a gabion structure. This detail would be secured under the boundary treatment condition recommended above.

Hard landscape materials: The Council's Senior Landscape Architect recommends the use of Yorkstone paving for the footpaths in the prominent public areas with natural stone setts within the vehicular carriageway in front of the school block, at the entrances to the housing area etc. Again, this detail can be secured by condition.

Planting proposals: Lime trees rather than Sycamore and Pear should be planted around the site boundaries and Yew or Holly hedges should be specified rather than Privet and Osmanthus. This detail would be picked up by discharge of the landscaping condition which has been recommended by the Council's Senior Landscape Architect including further levels information and cross sections, roadway and paving materials, tree and hedgerow amendments and full planting details, new vehicular gates and piers on Pownall Street, any new pedestrian access gates, design and materials for the new stone walls within the open space and on the gate house boundary, full details for the ha-ha, swale and walls, and further

SUDs details. A long-term landscape management plan is also recommended. Subject to this, the scheme is found to be acceptable in landscape terms.

### **Highways and Parking**

**Traffic Generation** - Base traffic surveys were undertaken by the applicant in 2018 on the roads surrounding the site to form the basis of the capacity assessments that have been undertaken. In assessing the likely impact of this development the applicant has considered the current use of the site as a school and the level of traffic generation that it produces. This has then been compared with the traffic generation arising from the new residential proposals to give the development impact arising from this application.

The results indicate that there are very similar levels of traffic associated with the current school use and the new residential development. The applicant has also indicated that there are numerous other trips to the school that are not accounted for on the road network that are dropping off on the surrounding roads to the school. The overall traffic impact of the new residential development would be lower than the existing school traffic on the local highway network.

**Accessibility** - The site is located close to the town centre and has good pedestrian connectivity to the footpath network. There are controlled pedestrian crossing facilities on Cumberland Street and Churchill Way that provide linkages to the town centre. There are numerous bus services available within easy walking distance of the site and also the bus and rail stations in Macclesfield are within a reasonable walking distance. The site is considered to have good accessibility given its proximity to the town centre and is therefore highly sustainable.

**Internal Road layout** - There are two main road access points to the site. These are the Cumberland Street access that will be a left in-left out access only and also an access onto Pownall Street that has now been redesigned with parking to both sides of the road. The Pownall Street access will be used as the access for refuse vehicles and deliveries. Tracking plans have been provided for these vehicles to confirm that they can safely use the access. The Coare Street access has also been slightly relocated to the west and this will provide access to an undercroft car park serving the 27 parking spaces for the School Block apartments. The site will be a private development internally with no adoption of the internal roads.

**Parking** - The original submitted scheme had 123 car parking spaces provided in total to serve the 115 units proposed. Following the receipt of amended plans, this has now been increased to 147 car parking spaces. With the exception of the school block (1 space), it is indicated that there are 2 spaces for each unit being provided. There are also 8 visitor spaces being provided located close to the Cumberland Street and Pownall Street accesses.

**Local Highway Infrastructure** - The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) has identified the Cumberland Street corridor in Macclesfield as a key route that requires improvement due to the high levels of congestion that regularly occurs on this route. The Highway Authority has prepared an indicative improvement scheme for this part of Cumberland Street and it is important that the development of the Kings School site does not prejudice the delivery of the future improvement scheme. Discussions with the applicant have taken place and as a result,

the application site will provide a new 3 metre pedestrian/cycleway within their site on the boundary with Cumberland Street. This would allow the current footway to be removed from Cumberland Street in the future to allow the widening of Cumberland Street to provide additional road capacity. It is important that the new pedestrian/cycleway is adopted and under the control of the Highway Authority so as to not affect the delivery of the improvement scheme in the future. Subject to this, the proposal would not undermine the potential to deliver highway improvement works in the future. Furthermore, the provision of this pedestrian / cycle link would increase connectivity through the site and is a key benefit of the scheme.

To conclude highways matters, as this is a school site, it has numerous trips to and from the site in the morning peak and evening peak due to after school activities taking place. The proposed residential development will produce the same or slightly less traffic compared with the school and therefore there is no net traffic impact arising from the development proposals.

There are two current access points to the site that are proposed to be retained from Pownall Street and Cumberland Street. However, given the high levels of flow on Cumberland Street this access will be restricted to left in, left out movements only. A new car park access is located on Coare Street, this is only to serve the apartment car park and does provide access to the rest of the site.

Although, it is recognised that this is a sustainable location it is important that car parking levels are sufficient to avoid overspill and on-street parking. Parking provision has been increased on the site from those originally proposed and it is now considered that the parking levels can be supported.

It is important that the delivery of highway improvements on the Cumberland Street corridor can still be implemented should this development be approved. The provision of a new pedestrian/cycleway within the site is welcomed as it provides additional space for the highway improvements to be made to Cumberland Street.

Therefore, the Head of Strategic Infrastructure (HSI - Highways) has confirmed that the application is acceptable subject to conditions and also the dedication of the pedestrian/cycleway to public highway. Accordingly, the application is found to be acceptable in this regard.

### **Residential Amenity**

Saved policy DC38 of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan (MBLP) states that new residential developments should generally achieve a distance of between 21 metres and 25 metres between principal windows and 14 metres between a principal window and a blank / flank elevation. This is required to maintain an adequate standard of privacy and amenity between residential properties, unless the design and layout of the scheme and its relationship to the site and its characteristics provide a commensurate degree of light and privacy between buildings.

However the CEC Design Guide states separation distances should be seen as a guide rather than a hard and fast rule. The Design Guide does acknowledge that the distance between rear facing habitable room windows should not drop below 21m. 18m front to front

will also provide a good level of privacy, but if this applied too rigidly it will lead to uniformity and limit the potential to create strong streetscenes and variety, and so this distance could go down as low as 12m in some cases.

The nearest neighbouring properties to the site are those that bound it to the north and east, positioned on Coare Street, Pownall Street and Tunnicliffe Street. Coare Street is made up of a row of terraced properties (nos. 68-54 inclusive) which 'back-onto' part of the northern boundary and are separated by a large stone retaining wall owing to the difference in levels (the school side occupying higher ground). Many of these neighbouring dwellings benefit from rear outriggers the nearest of which would enjoy a separation of at least 16 metres with the proposed Type F units. The main rear wall of these neighbouring terraced dwellings where the principal windows reside would be between 20 and 24 metres. Given that the proposed Type F units would replace an existing school block and would achieve a greater separation whilst also achieving the cited distances, it is not considered that they would harm neighbouring amenity in terms of direct overlooking, loss of light or visual intrusion.

There is potential for the end of terrace unit at no. 68 Coare Street to be unduly affected by the development in lieu of the school block building both to its side and rear. The separation here between facing elevations would be c12 metres and from side to side between 3-5 metres. However, it is important to note that there is existing built form in the form of the existing school block and it is not considered that the proposals would exacerbate this. Whilst a residential use may foster more overlooking, for example when outside of school times when the school is closed, the overall instances would be reduced and would also be replaced with a more complimentary use. Initially, the bin store for the proposed apartment block was proposed to be sited along the boundary with no. 68. Following concerns expressed by officers and the occupier, amended plans were received relocating this facility further along Coare Street to the west. The amended scheme proposes a better relationship and accordingly, it is found to be acceptable taking into account the current relationship between built form. Instances of direct overlooking, loss of light and visual intrusion would not be made significantly worse to justify a refusal of planning permission.

Moving to the east, the end side elevation of the Type F units would enjoy a distance of between 19 metres and 27 metres as measured between the end of the outrigger arrangements and the main rear wall of nos. 76-68 Pownall Street. This well exceeds the separation expected between a side elevation and a principal one. Further to the south along the eastern boundary, the scheme has been amended by omitting 2 units that were proposed to sit alongside no. 40 Pownall Street. This was owing to the presence of a principal bedroom window in this neighbouring side elevation. Instead, an opportunity has been made to strengthen the approach into the site taken from the vehicular access off Pownall Street as well as proving additional parking in place of these omitted units. The nearest proposed residential units (type E and E1) would be sited at least 30 metres away at the closest point. This also well exceeds expected interface distances and is therefore acceptable in amenity terms. The remainder of the Pownall Street units backing onto the eastern boundary would achieve a similar distance of 30 metres and consequently would not materially harm neighbouring amenity.

Finally in respect of the eastern boundary, the semi-detached dwellings at the end of Tunnicliffe Street side onto the site. No. 15 Tunnicliffe Street would be approximately 16 metres from the rear elevation of the nearest type E unit. Whilst no. 26 contains a number of

side facing windows, these are secondary (i.e. not the only windows serving the rooms in which they serve) and the unit nearest unit would offset slightly thus discouraging direct overlooking. The other nearest property on Tunncliffe Street would be c 22 metres. Taking this into account, the relationship with the properties on Tunncliffe Street is considered to be acceptable.

Within the site itself, there would be a shortfall in some places, but there would not be a significant failure to comply with the advised standards and furthermore, any reductions would be the interests of preserving the heritage assets on the site and achieving a high quality innovative design (for example the homes zone units). The internal floor layouts have been designed to minimise conflicts.

Elsewhere, the proposal would meet with the separation standards and the amenity afforded to future residents (in terms of light and outlook) of the proposed scheme would be acceptable having regard to the character of the area and subject to further considerations relating to noise.

## **Noise**

The application is supported by acoustic report which details noise mitigation measures in order to ensure that occupants of the proposed dwellings are not adversely affected by current and future traffic noise on Cumberland Street / Hibel Road (A537) and the activities associated with the nearby Sainsbury's food store. This would comprise of the incorporation of noise mitigation within the façade elements of some of the proposed dwellings to ensure that an acceptable internal noise environment is achieved. Provided that the noise mitigation measures as detailed in the acoustic report are implemented, it is considered that there should be no adverse impacts on health and quality of life of the future residents resulting from road traffic noise in the area or the adjoining food store. Subject to conditions, it is considered that the proposal complies with Policy SE12 of the CELPS and DC14 of the MBLP relating to noise and soundproofing.

## **Air Quality**

Policy SE 12 of the Local Plan states that the Council will seek to ensure all development is located and designed so as not to result in a harmful or cumulative impact upon air quality. This is in accordance with paragraph 124 of the NPPF and the Government's Air Quality Strategy. When assessing the impact of a development on Local Air Quality, regard is had to the Council's Air Quality Strategy, the Air Quality Action Plan, Local Monitoring Data and the EPUK Guidance "Land Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality May 2015).

The proposed development is considered significant in that it has the potential to change traffic patterns and congestion in the area. The application is supported by an Air Quality Assessment which has been reviewed by the Council's Environmental Protection Unit (EPU). The EPU initially objected to the proposals as insufficient information had been submitted in the form of a complete air quality assessment. A detailed air quality assessment has since been submitted. The EPU initially raised concerns about the removal of monitoring tubes 'CE86' and 'CE266' from the verification process of the assessment. The applicant's



consultant responded by stating that the traffic data for the stretch of road where these two tubes are located is incomplete and made the following statement:

*“Including CE86 and CE266 in model verification with significant missing traffic data would influence the verification factor derived by illustrating an under-prediction of concentrations at the two diffusion tubes.”*

This EPU also queried the predicted result at receptor ‘R13’ given that it was roughly half the concentration of the diffusion tube located outside this property (CE266). It was decided that the queue length inputted into the model would be increased to account for the dynamics of the junction between Hibel Road and Jordangate, i.e. longer queues causing higher concentrations. These changes were all made to ensure the final results were as robust as possible with the data available to determine the potential impacts of the development on the local air quality and to ensure no new receptors would be introduced into an area of poor air quality.

The assessments use ADMS Roads to model NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> impacts from additional traffic associated with this development and the cumulative impact of committed development within the area.

A number of modelled scenarios have been considered within the assessment. These were:

- Scenario 1 – Base year (2017);
- Scenario 2 – 2021 opening year without development
- Scenario 3 – 2021 opening year with development

The assessment and the addendum conclude that the impact of the future development on the chosen receptors will be **negligible** with regards to all the modelled pollutants at existing receptors. However, one of the new dwellings (PR1) is predicted to see a concentration of 42.4 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub> which is above the annual average objective. Therefore, the EPU has recommended a condition be placed on this dwelling to ensure the future residents are not exposed to excessive concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub>. This would be achieved by installing mechanical ventilation for the dwellings adjacent to Cumberland Street to ensure that air is drawn from the ‘clean façade’ (i.e. the one facing away from Cumberland Street).

Macclesfield has four Air Quality Management Areas, including one adjacent to the development and as such the cumulative impact of developments in the area is likely to make the situation worse, unless managed.

Poor air quality is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the public and also has a negative impact on the quality of life for sensitive individuals. It is therefore considered appropriate that mitigation should be sought in the form of direct measures to reduce the adverse air quality impact. Further robust mitigation measures are required to reduce the impact on sensitive receptors in the area. Accordingly, it is considered appropriate that further mitigation should be sought in the form of direct measures to reduce the adverse air quality impact. This can be achieved by conditions relating to dust control and the provision of electric vehicle infrastructure in addition to the use of mechanical ventilation on specific plots which are accordingly recommended. Subject to these conditions, the proposal will comply with policy SE 12 of the CELPS.

## Ecology

Macclesfield Borough Local Plan Policy NE11 and CELPS Policy SE 3 seek to protect nature conservation interests and indicate that where development would adversely affect such interests, permission should be refused. The application has been supported by an ecological assessment dealing with the following species:

Designated sites - Two statutory designated sites are located within 10km of the proposed development. The application site does not fall within Natural England's SSSI impact risk zones and Natural England have made no comments on this application. Considering the nature and location of the application site within a highly built up area and its distance from the designated sites, the proposed development is unlikely to have a significant effect on any statutory or non-statutory designated sites. Therefore no further action in respect of designated sites is required under the Habitat Regulations or the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

Bats - Building B10 on site, which is the footbridge over Coare Street, was initially identified as being of 'moderate' bat roost potential, this was revised to 'low' potential during the course of the bat activity surveys of the buildings on site. No bat specific activity surveys have been undertaken of this structure. However, based on the characteristics of this structure the Council's Nature Conservation Officer (NCO) has advised that it is not reasonable likely to support roosting bats. No further surveys of this structure are therefore required.

Evidence of bat activity in the form of a minor roost of a relatively common bat species has been recorded within one of the buildings. The usage of the building by bats is likely to be limited to single-small numbers of animals using the buildings for relatively short periods of time during the year and there is no evidence to suggest a significant maternity roost is present. The loss of the roosts associated with the buildings on this site, in the absence of mitigation, is likely to have a low impact upon bats at the local level and a low impact upon the conservation status of the species as a whole.

The submitted report recommends the installation of bat boxes on the nearby trees as a means of compensating for the loss of the roost and also recommends the timing and supervision of the works to reduce the risk posed to any bats that may be present when the works are completed.

It should be noted that since a European Protected Species (bats) has been recorded on site and is likely to be adversely affected by the proposed development, the local planning authority must have regard to whether Natural England would be likely to subsequently grant the applicant a European Protected species license under the Habitat Regulations. A license under the Habitats Regulations can only be granted when:

- the development is of overriding public interest,
- there are no suitable alternatives and
- the favourable conservation status of the species will be maintained.

The school will be vacating the site this summer, which will leave the site vacant in the absence of a suitable alternative use being found. The redevelopment of the site for

residential purposes appears to be the most sustainable alternative use and owing to the heritage sensitivities of the site hosting a number of designated heritage assets and the highly prominent position of the site within the town, it is considered that there is overriding public interest in this case to bring the site forward for residential purposes.

There are no suitable alternatives to providing the development on the site and the Council's NCO has confirmed that if planning consent were to be granted, the proposed mitigation/compensation is acceptable and is likely to maintain the favourable conservation status of species. On this basis, it is considered that the proposal meets with the tests outlined in the Habitat Regulations.

Hedgerows - The submitted ecological assessment identifies two hedgerows on site that would qualify as a Priority habitat. Based upon the submitted layout plans one of these hedgerows would be lost as a result of the proposed development. The NCO advises that provided appropriate species are used, the proposed landscaping scheme has the potential to provide sufficient replacement planting to compensate the hedgerows lost. The detailed landscaping scheme can be secured by condition.

Subject to conditions to safeguard nesting birds, the incorporation of features into the scheme for use by breeding birds including house sparrow and swifts, the proposal is considered to comply with policy NE11 of the MBLP and SE3 of the CELPS.

### **Flood Risk and Drainage**

The site is located within Flood Zone 1 where flooding from rivers and the sea is very unlikely with less than a 0.1 per cent (1 in 1000) chance of flooding occurring each year. Subject to conditions including a surface water drainage strategy and confirmation from the Council's Flood Risk Team, the proposal would not give rise to flooding or drainage issues. Therefore the development is considered to comply with policy SE 12 of the CELPS.

### **Contaminated Land**

The submitted Phase I contaminated land assessment has been assessed by the Council's Environmental Protection Unit, who have offered no objection. Any risk from further contamination not already identified can be picked up by further monitoring and secured by appropriate conditions. Consequently the proposal complies with policy DC63 of the MBLP and CELPS Policy SE12.

### **ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY**

With regard to the economic role of sustainable development, the proposed development will help to maintain a flexible and responsive supply of land for housing as well as bringing direct and indirect economic benefits to Macclesfield (including the Town Centre) including additional trade for local shops and businesses, jobs in construction and economic benefits to the construction industry supply chain.

### **S106 HEADS OF TERMS**

A s106 agreement is currently being negotiated to secure the requisite Affordable Housing, Public Open Space and Sports and Recreation provision in lieu of on-site provision and an NHS contribution. As noted above, discussions regarding the potential contribution towards the Education are ongoing.

## **CIL Regulations**

In order to comply with the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010 it is necessary for planning applications with legal agreements to consider the issue of whether the requirements within the S106 satisfy the following:

- (a) necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
- (b) directly related to the development; and
- (c) fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

The provision of the affordable housing (quantum dependent on the outcome of the viability appraisal), will be necessary, fair and reasonable to assist in providing affordable housing in the area and to comply with Local and National Planning Policies.

The commuted sum in lieu of open space and indoor recreation / outdoor sport is necessary, fair and reasonable, as the proposed development will provide 115 dwellings, the occupiers of which will use local facilities, and there is a necessity to provide facilities. The contribution is in accordance with the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance.

The development would result in increased demand for secondary school places including a place for special education needs in the locality, where there is limited spare capacity. In order to increase capacity of the school(s) which would support the proposed development, a contribution towards school education is required. This is considered to be necessary and fair and reasonable in relation to the development.

The NHS contribution would support improvement works to the local GP practices and would be sufficient to mitigate the impact of the proposals on healthcare provision.

All elements are necessary, directly relate to the development and are fair and reasonable in relation to the scale and kind of development.

On this basis the S106 contributions associated with the scheme are compliant with the CIL Regulations 2010.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Macclesfield is one of the principal towns and growth areas of the Borough where national and local plan policies support sustainable development. The proposal provides 115 dwellings of an acceptable scale relative to the principal town of Macclesfield and would deliver housing within a highly sustainable location adjoining the Town Centre Boundary. The site is largely brownfield in nature and therefore its redevelopment to provide homes in such a highly sustainable location aligns with the general principles of national and local policy. Whilst there would be a partial loss of open space comprising of the cricket pitch, this would be replaced with an equivalent or better provision at the new school site. The proposals would provide for

a diverse range and mix of housing, and correspondingly, a diverse community. Discussions are ongoing as to the quantum of affordable housing that this development can reasonably bear. Subject to this, the scheme will provide an element of affordable housing.

In design terms, the proposal would provide a high quality innovative scheme with a contemporary approach whilst protecting listed buildings. Whilst it is acknowledged that there would be an intrusion of the later living block, it is considered that this is balanced against the improvements that would be seen from the Sainsbury's roundabout and the overall design credentials of the scheme. There are also benefits derived from ensuring a sustainable future use is secured for such an important and prominent site within Macclesfield from a heritage perspective. Thus, the proposals represent a high quality scheme, with many positive attributes.

There is an opportunity to ensure that the loss of the cricket pavilion is replaced with a high quality memorial proposal to compensate for its loss. Coupled with the applicants proposal for the memorial garden within the site, it is considered that the loss of the cricket pavilion would be acceptable in the context of the proposals for both this site.

In highways terms, the impact from a residential scheme would be no greater than that of the school use and therefore the local highway network would be able to accommodate the likely traffic movements generated by the proposal. Adequate parking would be provided having regard of the size, type and scale and the sites' highly sustainable location adjoining the town centre boundary.

The proposal would not materially harm neighbouring residential amenity and would provide sufficient amenity for the new occupants having regard to the character of the area and the design credentials of the scheme. The application would offset the impact on public open space, healthcare and education through the provision of financial contributions. The applicants have demonstrated general compliance with national and local guidance in a range of areas including ecology, flood risk, noise and air quality.

The proposal is for sustainable development which would bring environmental, economic and social benefits. The proposal is therefore considered to be acceptable in the context of the relevant policies of the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy and the saved policies of the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan and advice contained within the NPPF. The application is therefore recommended for approval subject to conditions and the necessary Section 106 obligation.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**APPROVE subject to conditions and a S106 Agreement making provision for:**

- 1. Affordable Housing (tbc)**
- 2. Public Open Space comprising of:**
  - Recreation and Outdoor Sport (ROS) £1,000 per family dwelling or £500 per 1 / 2 bed apartment (excluding the affordable properties).
  - Commuted sum for offsite provision of children's play at a rate of £1,500 per family dwelling and £750 per bed space in apartments

- Indoor Sports Provision - £19,500 towards to provide 3 additional pieces of equipment at Macclesfield Leisure Centre
- 3. Education Contribution** of £274,298 towards secondary and SEN (Special Educational Needs) school places
- 4. Healthcare contribution of** £84,024 to support premises development of the Waters Green Medical Centre and development of additional primary care premises within Macclesfield.

**And the following conditions:**

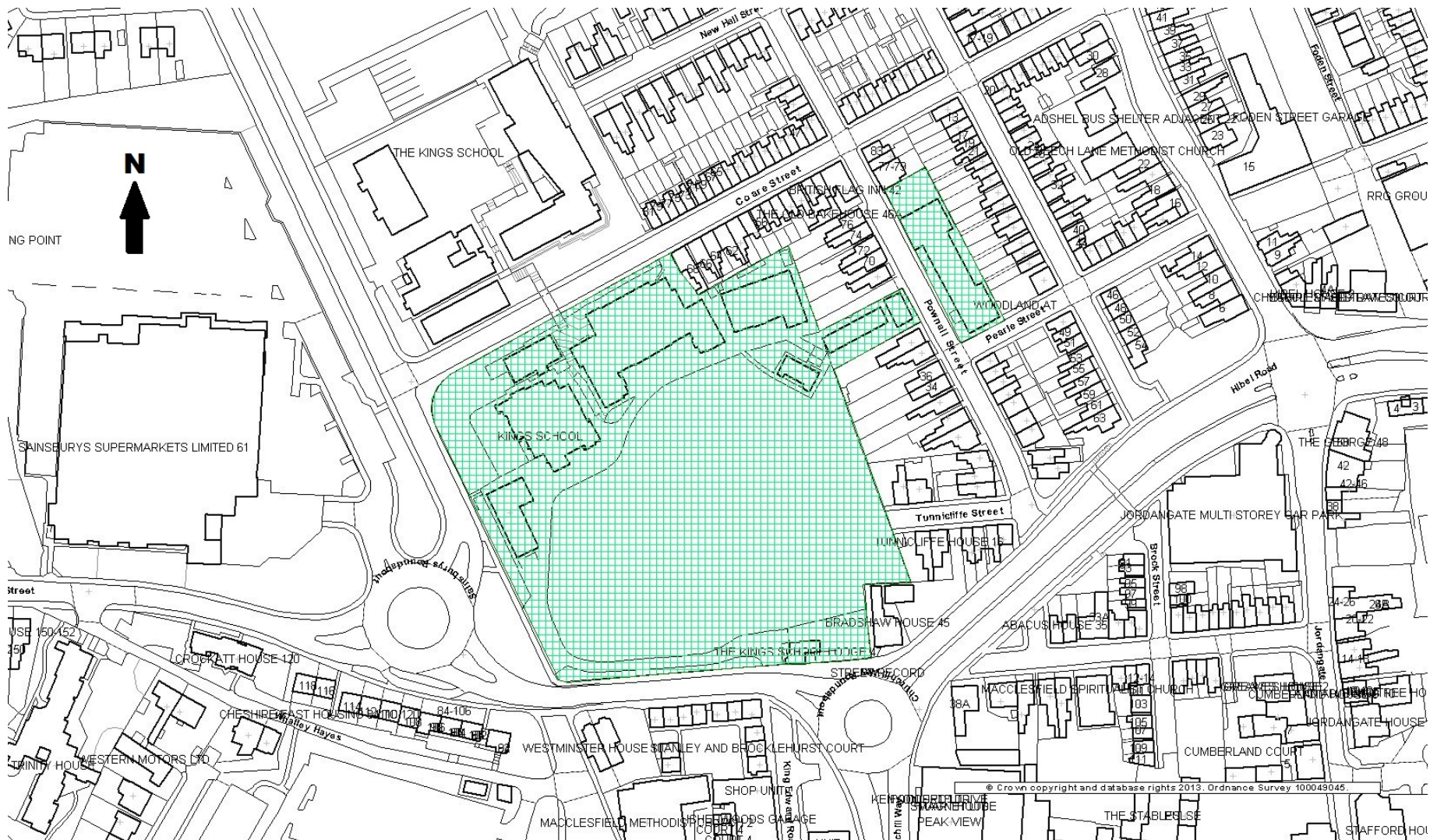
1. Commencement of development (3 years)
2. Development in accordance with approved and amended plans
3. Construction of access prior to first occupation
4. Replacement cricked pitch to be provided prior to loss of existing pitch
5. Landscaping scheme to be submitted and approved to include replacement planting
6. Landscaping scheme to be implemented
7. Arboricultural Method Statement to be submitted and approved
8. Tree protection of retained trees to be submitted an approved
9. Arboricultural Method Statement/Construction Specification for hard landscaping within root protection areas to be submitted and approved
10. Details of ground levels to be submitted, approved and implemented
11. Details of external facing materials to be submitted, approved and implemented and to use stone
12. Details of surfacing materials to be submitted and to be conservation style in accordance with design guide
13. Details of boundary treatments to be submitted, approved and implemented including retention of boundary walls
14. Development to be carried out in accordance with submitted noise survey with mitigation provided prior to first occupation
15. Phase II contaminated land investigation to be submitted and approved
16. Verification of remediated contaminated land to be submitted and approved
17. Bin storage to be provided prior to first occupation
18. Details of pile foundations to be submitted, approved and implemented
19. Electric Vehicle Infrastructure to be provided prior to first occupation
20. Scheme of dust control to be submitted, approved and implemented
21. Foul and surface water drainage to be connected on separate systems
22. Scheme of surface water drainage to be submitted, approved and implemented
23. Submission, approval and implementation of a Construction Environmental management Plan
24. Removal of permitted development rights for Classes A-E (extensions and outbuildings etc)
25. Removal of permitted development rights for gates, walls and fences
26. Obscured glazing on specific plots and glazed screening to some balconies
27. Accordance with Ecological Assessments
28. Nesting bird mitigation measures to be submitted, approved and implemented
29. Details of external lighting to be submitted, approved and implemented
30. Scheme for ecological enhancement to be to be submitted, approved and implemented
31. Retention of war memorial gates

- 32. Scheme of memorial proposals to be submitted and approved including details of cricket pavilion war memorial lintel to be repurposed
- 33. Details of cycle storage to be submitted and approved
- 34. Scheme for car club to be submitted and approved

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*In order to give proper effect to the Board's/Committee's intent and without changing the substance of its decision, authority is delegated to the Acting Head of Planning (Regulation) in consultation with the Chair (or in their absence the Vice Chair) to correct any technical slip or omission in the resolution, before issue of the decision notice.*

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Application No: 19/1392M

Location: LAND NORTH OF, NORTHWICH ROAD, KNUTSFORD

Proposal: Reserved Matters in relation to scale, appearance, landscape and layout for the erection of 190 dwellings including allotments, community orchard, playing pitch, landscaping, open space, car and cycle parking, drainage and associated works pursuant to outline application 17/3853M

Applicant: Michael Blackhurst, Redrow

Expiry Date: 31-Jan-2020

### **SUMMARY**

The principle of the erection of 190 dwellings on this site, along with access arrangements has already been permitted under application 17/3853M. This application considers the remaining Reserved Matters, which comprise of design considerations including; layout, scale and appearance and also matters of landscaping.

The design aspects of the proposals include; layout, scale, form and appearance. These elements were amended during the application process as a result of officer advice and amended further following the deferral by Strategic Planning Board on two occasions. The design of the proposal is subsequently deemed to be acceptable.

Matters of landscaping are satisfactory and suitable for its purpose.

No issues are raised with regards to; highways, amenity, ecology, flooding and drainage, affordable housing, open space or public rights of way, subject conditions where deemed necessary.

The application is therefore recommended for **APPROVAL**, subject to conditions

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**APPROVE**, subject to conditions

### **REASON FOR DEFERRAL**

This application was deferred by Cheshire East Council's Strategic Planning Board on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 for the following reasons;

*'That the application be deferred to allow officers to work with the applicant's agents in consultation with Knutsford Town Council and Nether Ward Community Group to address the*

*concerns raised about the scheme, which are; lack of local distinctiveness, in particular a lack of some truly bespoke property house types, a lack of true corner turning property designs, insufficient housing mix with regards to size of dwellings including further bungalow provision and affordable housing location, along with the policies in the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan and Knutsford Design Guide.'*

### **Update**

In response to the above, a meeting was held with the respective groups and individuals on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2019. It is understood that a further meeting took place on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019. As a result of these meetings, and in order to address the Committee concerns, the applicant has made the following further amendments to the scheme;

- Affordable housing - 6 dwellings have been re-located in order to address the 'pepper potting' concerns.
- Bespoke frontage – Redrow are now proposing a bespoke frontage. 3 new house types are proposed all of which shall extend across the full frontage of the site.
- Corner tuners – Additional bay window features have been added.
- Housing mix – Redrow are now proposing 38No. 'Lifetime Home' compliant homes over a mix of 3-5 bed. This is on top of the 2No. 2-bed private bungalows and 3nr 1 bed affordable rent ground floor apartments.

These changes are proposed in addition to those considered at the previous committee that included;

- Cycle lane added to western side of main spine road
- Pedestrian links onto Northwich Road, updated so can also be used by cyclists
- Inclusion of private 2-bed Mews properties
- Greater Pepper Potting of Affordable dwelling and a different mix
- Addition of 2 smaller areas of informal Public Open Space
- Cycle store added to LEAP
- Re-siting of football pitch
- Green energy uplift – 25 dwellings now include solar panels and each dwelling has a water butt
- Permanent filling of site frontage attenuation pond (water level to be agreed)

The Council's Urban Design Officer has reviewed the updated proposals and when assessing against the Cheshire East Design Guide SPD (which uses a traffic light system to assess design), concludes that the proposal now comprises of 7 greens and 4 ambers and as such, raises no objections, subject to conditions. This compares to the 4 greens, 6 ambers and 1 red conclusion made on the last application considered by committee. As such, it is deemed that the current scheme under consideration represents a considerable step forward in design quality. It should be noted that this design assessment is an overarching high level assessment, but the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan design elements have also been considered, in particular those relating to local character.

The application therefore recommended for approval, subject to the conditions detailed at the end of this report.

Previously considered Committee Report below (incorporating updated recommended conditions)

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

*The application site extends to approximately 15.65ha located to the north of Northwich Road. The site is a greenfield site in arable production. The site is bounded by hedgerows with a strong hedgerow along the boundary with Northwich Road. The site has Warren Avenue and Spinney Lane to the east, Acacia Avenue and Lilac Avenue across Northwich Road to the south, with open fields to the north and west. The site is currently accessed off Northwich Road. However the access point will be further to the west where a new roundabout will be created. Two local schools are located to the south of Northwich Road. The town centre is located approximately 850m from the southern portion of the site. Knutsford Railway Station is located approximately 1.07km from the site as the crow flies.*

*The site is allocated for housing by the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy Policy LPS 36 and outline planning permission (including matters of Access) was granted for 190 dwellings in February 2019.*

## **DETAILS OF PROPOSAL**

*This reserved matters application seeks approval of the; Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale for the erection of 190 dwellings and associated open space and infrastructure, following the approval of outline application 17/3853M.*

*The site is recognised as low-density as per the numbers allocated for it within the Local Plan. The 190 dwellings will be made up from 133 market dwellings and 57 affordable units. Of the 133 market dwellings, these will comprise of a mix of detached, semi-detached and bungalow units ranging from 2-5 bed units and the affordable units from 1-4 bed units. The site will benefit from a large area of Open Space to the north of the site. Included in the proposals are a football pitch, an allotment, an orchard and a children's play area, including play equipment and parking provision nearby for each.*

*Revised plans have been received during the application process in response to concerns raised by the Council, predominantly in relation to design & open space. More specifically, concerns were originally raised regarding the mix of dwellings sought (both in terms of the market and affordable units), the formality of the street layout, the level of children's play provision and the surfacing of the footpaths and car park areas. In response, the applicant created a more informal street layout, introduced a greater mix of properties in terms of bedroom numbers and form for both the market and affordable units, and addressed the Open Space concerns.*

## **RELEVANT HISTORY**

**19/2680M** - Advertisement consent for 8x Direction Leader Boards, 1x V Stack and 20x Flag poles – Under consideration

**19/2370M** - Non-material amendment to planning approval 17/3853M - Outline planning application with means of access to be determined (all other matters reserved for subsequent approval) for the erection of up to 190 dwellings (Class C3); the provision of serviced land for allotments; a community orchard, a playing pitch, landscaping and open space; new internal highways, car and cycle parking; sustainable drainage measures including surface water retention ponds, provision of utilities infrastructure; earthworks and all ancillary enabling works – Withdrawn 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019

**17/3853M** - Outline planning application with means of access to be determined (all other matters reserved for subsequent approval) for the erection of up to 190 dwellings (Class C3); the provision of serviced land for allotments; a community orchard, a playing pitch, landscaping and open space; new internal highways, car and cycle parking; sustainable drainage measures including surface water retention ponds, provision of utilities infrastructure; earthworks and all ancillary enabling works – Approved 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

**17/4774S** – EIA Screening Opinion – EIA not required 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## **ADOPTED PLANNING POLICY**

### **Development Plan**

The aspects of the Cheshire East Council Development Plan that are relevant to the application proposals include; the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy (CELPS), the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan (KNP) and the Macclesfield Borough Local Plan (MBLP). The relevant policies of these plans to the application proposals include;

#### Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy 2017 (CELPS)

##### **LPS 36 – Northwest Knutsford**

MP1 - Presumption in favour of sustainable development, PG1 - Overall Development Strategy, PG2 – Settlement Hierarchy, PG3 – Green Belt, PG7 - Spatial Distribution of Development, SD1 - Sustainable Development in Cheshire East, SD2 - Sustainable Development Principles, IN1 – Infrastructure, IN2 - Developer contributions, SE1 – Design, SE2 - Efficient use of land, SE3 - Biodiversity and geodiversity, SE4 - The Landscape, SE5 - Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland, SE6 - Green Infrastructure, SE9 - Energy Efficient Development, SE12 - Pollution, Land contamination and land instability, SE13 - Flood risk and water management, CO1 - Sustainable Travel and Transport, CO2 – Enabling Business Growth Through Transport Infrastructure, CO4 – Travel Plans and Transport Assessments, SC1 – Leisure and Recreation, SC2 – Outdoor Sports Facilities, SC5 – Affordable Homes, SC5 – Affordable Homes, EG1 – Economic Prosperity and EG5 – Town Centres First

#### Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan 2019 (KNP)

C4 – Utilities, D1 – The Knutsford Design Guide, D2 – Local Distinctiveness, D3 – Landscape in New Development, D4 – Sustainable Residential Design, E1 – Connections to the Countryside, E2 – Green and Blue Corridors, E3 – Habitat Protection and Biodiversity, E5 – Pollution, HW1 – Health and Wellbeing, HE1 – Landmarks, Views, Vistas and Gateways, HE2 – Heritage Assets, H1 – Housing mix, SL1 – Open Space in New Developments, SL3 – New Sport and Leisure

*Facilities, T1 – Walking in Knutsford, T2 – Cycling in Knutsford, T3 – Public Transport and T4 – Parking*

*Macclesfield Borough Local Plan (MBLP)*

*GC1 – Green Belts, NE3 – Protection of Local Landscapes, NE11 – Protection and enhancement of nature conservation interests, NE17 – Nature Conservation in Major Developments, H9 – Occupation of Affordable Housing Recreation and Tourism, RT5 – Open Space, RT6 – Allocated for additional Informal Recreational Facilities, RT7 – Recreation / Open Spaces Provision, DC3 – Amenity, DC6 – Circulation and Access, DC8 – Landscaping, DC9 – Tree Protection, DC15 – Provision of Facilities, DC17 – Water Resources, DC35 – Materials and Finishes, DC36 – Road Layouts and Circulation, DC37 – Landscaping, DC38 – Space Light and Privacy, DC40 – Children’s Play Provision and Amenity Space, DC41 – Infill Housing Development and DC63 – Contaminated Land*

**Other material planning policy considerations**

*National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF)*

*Relevant paragraphs include;*

*7-14 – Achieving sustainable development, 34 – Development Contributions, 38-50 – Decision Making, 54-57 – Planning Conditions and Obligations, 59-79 Delivering a sufficient supply of homes, 80-84 Building a strong, competitive economy, 91-101 Promoting healthy and safe communities, 102-111 - Promoting sustainable transport, 112-116 - Supporting high quality communications, 122-123 Achieving appropriate densities, 124-132 – Achieving well-designed places, 133-147 Protecting Green Belt Land, 148-169 – Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change, 170-183 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment, 184-202 - Conserving and enhancing the historic environment,*

*Cheshire East Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)  
National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)*

**CONSULTATIONS (External to Planning)**

**Head of Strategic Infrastructure (HSI)** – *No objections, but has concerns about the level of parking provision proposed for the sports pitches*

**Environmental Protection** – *No objections, subject to conditions including; the prior submission/approval of a dust management plan and the submission/approval of a piling method statement and implementation of noise mitigation measures.*

*All other matters environmental amenity matters were considered as part of the outline permission and/or are to be dealt with by condition as part of the outline application*

**United Utilities** – *No objections, subject to a condition that no surface water shall discharge to the existing sewerage system either directly or indirectly, in accordance with the submitted information*

**Flood Risk Manager** - No objections, subject to the implementation of the submitted flood risk and drainage details

**Environment Agency** - No objections

**Natural England** - No objections

**Public Rights of Way** – No objections

**Ramblers Association** - No comments received at time of report

**ANSA Greenspace** – No objections, subject to the conditioning of the Football Pitch Management and Maintenance Strategy

**Health Protection Agency** - No comments received at time of report

**Affordable Housing Manager** – No objections

**Knutsford Town Council** – Object to the proposal on the following grounds;

- a. There doesn't appear to be a detailed drainage strategy as required by condition 5 of the outline application – the drainage details don't appear to include maintenance, for example
- b. It does not appear that the proposed design complies with Policy D2 of the Neighbourhood Plan as the housing is not locally distinctive. This is a key part of our Neighbourhood Plan.
- c. The proposal does not appear to include adequate and regular public transport provision required by Policy T3 of the NP
- d. The sports pitch still has no changing facilities as required by policies SL1/SL3
- e. There does not appear to be a strategy for development connecting to public utilities required by Condition 4

**Tabley Inferior Parish Council** - No comments received at time of report

## **REPRESENTATIONS**

Neighbour notification letters were sent to the occupiers of all adjacent occupants, site notices were erected and the proposals were advertised in the local newspaper. In response, comments were received from approximately 31 interested properties/groups. The main areas of objection raised include;

### Procedural matters

- Works on site have started – hedgerows removed along Northwich Road
- Parts of the submission do not adhere with elements of the outline application (Open Space requirements, Cycle provision requirements, Phasing plan provision)

### Design

- *Proposals represent a backwards step from the scheme indicated at outline stage within the Design and Access Statement. More specifically;*
  - *The scheme does not include character areas*
  - *House types proposed along spine road do not include local features*
  - *Western edge of spine road – garages set forward*
- *Street lighting proposals (Contrary to Knutsford NP)*
- *Too many straight roads*
- *'Off the shelf' house types*
- *Width of 3 pedestrian/cycle routes out of the site are unclear and materials are inconsistent*

*Proposals contrary to the CELPS Policy SE1, Cheshire East Design Guide, Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan (including Knutsford Design Guide) and NPPF*

#### *Highways / Linkages / Footpaths / Cycleways*

- *No pedestrian/cycle link to Tabley Road (was conditioned within outline)*
- *Lack of adequate cycle ways (contrary the LPA 36, CO1, CO4 of CELPS and T2 of Knutsford NP) Also reference within conditions on outline permission*
- *Cyclist routes are unclear*
- *Lack of cycle parking provision*
- *Extent of cycle provision has been reduced from outline stage*
- *No detail of cycling surface material or cycleway width*
- *Travel plans are out of date and need to be updated to include cycle ways*
- *Lack of pedestrian crossing across Northwich Road to Knutsford Academy sites, Egerton Primary School*
- *No highway improvements along Northwich Road where new site meets old footpath onward to the town centre*

#### *Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency*

- *Lack of provision of energy efficient features/design (contrary to CELPS, Design Guide SPD and Knutsford NP)*

#### *Landscaping and Trees*

- *Felling of 9 oak trees*
- *Landscape Management and Maintenance Plan needs updating to indicate schedule for playing pitch, amenity area and equipped play area incl facilities*

#### *Affordable Housing*

- *Clearly distinguishable from market homes, are single aspect only, block parking provision, lack of private amenity space*

#### *Flood Risk and Drainage*

- *Several areas of road that do not have suitable drainage to cover rainwater*
- *No drainage of Sports Area or Play Area provided*
- *Concerns regarding the type of drainage proposed*
- *Concerns over increased surface water run-off as a result of hardstanding*

#### Amenity

- *Concerns regarding hours of work and dust*
- *Parking areas backing onto Warren Avenue – loss of outlook, creation of anti-social behaviour, noise*
- *Loss of access from private garden on Warren Avenue onto field*

#### Ecology

- *Impact upon Knutsford Heath (Local Wildlife Site)*
- *Advocate the provision of a Wildlife corridor from Knutsford Heath westwards out to Bluebell Wood*

#### Open Space

- *Play Area*
  - *Location of LEAP, design and layout not supported – safety hazard*
  - *Lack of cycle provision*
  - *Management plan does not include replacement/renewal*
  - *Area proposed to be used as temporary site storage during construction (not allowed under S106)*
  - *Location close to road is dangerous. Suggestions - cycle and scooter parking, additional seating and bins*
- *Sports Pitch*
  - *Lack of detail on specification, construction, maintenance and responsibility*
  - *insufficient detail provided in relation to playing pitch, its construction details, drainage, parking provision or changing facilities*
- *Orchard*
  - *No detail provided in relation to planting, maintenance and management*

#### Impact upon infrastructure

- *Highway network pressures, overstretched GP practices, inadequate school places, lack of affordable housing*

#### **OFFICER APPRAISAL**

#### **Principle of development**



*This application shall consider the acceptability of the proposed development in the context of the reserved matters as the principle of erecting 190 dwellings, along with access, has already been granted. In this instance therefore, consideration of the Layout, Scale Appearance and Landscaping are the principal considerations.*

## **Design**

*A Building for Life assessment has been undertaken to enable consideration of the Cheshire East Design Guide principles to be addressed. These are detailed below.*

### Layout

#### *Hierarchy of streets – Amber*

*A central, tree-lined spine road extends through the site from the roundabout approved as part of the outline planning permission. It's from this road that the rest of the development is accessed. As part of discussions during the application process, many of the roads that extended off this main central road, have been amended so they are less linear in design in order to add a degree of interest and assist with traffic calming.*

*Boundary treatments to the front of the properties can further enhance the hierarchy, with a more formal approach to the spine road and softer detailing to the rural/green edges of the site. The intention to enhance the hierarchy of the front boundaries to strengthen the overall street hierarchy is welcomed.*

#### *Connectivity - Amber*

*The site is well connected to local bus services that run along Northwich Road and additional vehicular connections have been reinstated. The site will be accessed by car by a single road extending from the approved roundabout. There are four occasions where either a cycle link or pedestrian footpath (or both) extend to the edge of the site. Two of these are pedestrian linkages onto Northwich Road to the south, another will link the site with Warren Avenue to the east and another would extend to the north of the site and eventually, provide a link into the safeguarded land and beyond.*

#### *Green Space - Green*

*The site has an overall low density and as such, there are large areas of green open space, most notably on the northern edge.*

*The dwellings that face onto the Public Open Space in the centre of the site, that will include a LEAP and a LAP (children's play equipment), provide a well surveyed area. Additional parking alongside these areas provides parking for visitors.*

#### *Parking - Green*

*An issue of predominantly front of plot parking with the originally submitted proposals has been resolved with a varied mix of parking solutions is now proposed across the site.*

### *Views and Vistas - Green*

*There were initially concerns that there were areas of the site where the rear of properties formed the primary view from public spaces revealing rear boundary treatments. This issue has been subsequently resolved with the submission of a revised plan as the elevations that are visible from the public realm now have the same specification of detail to the window/cill/head as other primary elevations.*

*The addition of a quality boundary wall to public facing side boundaries that is set back and landscaped has been achieved and the intention to soften the front boundaries and landscaping towards the rural edge is there.*

### *Legibility - Amber*

*The site is mostly legible with some feature buildings/activities at key nodes, particularly at the centre, where a curved grouping of dwellings is proposed that front onto an area of Public Open Space.*

*A varied roof scape is welcomed by the inclusion of a few taller units and bungalows during the application process.*

### *Affordable housing and mix - Amber*

*The affordable houses are concentrated in certain areas of the site which is contrary to development plan policy. However, as a greater mix of dwelling forms have now been introduced, the identification of the affordable units is not as clear as it was on the original plans.*

### *Density - Amber*

*Originally, the north and west edge of the site presented a dense edge which was contrary to the guidance in the design guide:*

*'Areas of lesser activity, for example sub-urban residential areas adjacent to open spaces or the countryside would have a reduced density and less formal character with more generous gardens.'*

*During discussions during the application process, the applicant amended the scheme to address this concern to more acceptable levels. On the western edge in particular, the number of properties have reduced in number and 2 bungalows introduced which in turn has resulted in a softer transition with the rural land beyond. In turn, 3 detached properties towards the middle of the site and been amended to form 6 semi-detached units. These changes result in no change to the overall provision of 190 dwellings.*

### *Scale – Green*

*The design guide encourages a diverse roofs cape which necessitates the variation of height. It is not uncommon to see taller feature buildings particularly at nodal points and adjacent to POS/squares in the existing fabric of Knutsford.*

*There have been a number of 2.5 storey homes as well as two bungalows introduced to the layout which will improve the diversity of the roof scape and legibility throughout the site.*

*The layout reflects existing adjacent developments in type and density which helps to enable the new development to sit comfortably within the area.*

### Appearance

#### *Corner Plots - Green*

*Concerns were originally raised in relation to the strength of the corner turning designs. In response, revised plans were received. The corner turning types have been identified and strengthened by the addition of primary windows or feature details/dual aspect types and the side boundary specification to an acceptable degree.*

#### *Materials and Type - Amber*

*Although it is encouraged in the design guide (house types, making them unique) to take elements of the local vernacular and contextual characteristics and detailing, it is also expected that these elements will be used in such a way as to provide a distinct and unique character to the new development. It is also a requirement of the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan.*

*The originally proposed house types were typically generic designs and consequently did not reflect the local character or materials, resulting in an autonomous development.*

*The applicant subsequently introduced a greater mix of property forms, which has assisted in alleviating this concern to a degree, however, there does remain a concern regarding the appearance of the dwellings not taking characteristic cues from the local area.*

*A submitted materials plan shows that the proposed dwellings would be finished in a mixture of Parkhouse Western Red-Multi, Ibstock Leicester Weathered Red, Parkhouse Marlborough Stock or rendered wall finishes (all with feature bricks also), and a mixture of slate grey and sunrise blend roof tiles, all of which will add a degree of interest, as will the large mix of detached property types proposed and slight changes in land levels.*

*The originally submitted street surface materials did not meet the standards set out in the CEC Design Guide, however, a revised plan was received during the application process which resulted in an improvement in this regard.*

### Landscaping (including trees)

#### *Landscape*

*The proposals have retained the landscape buffers around the perimeter of the site and have also retained a street hierarchy, with avenues and tree lined streets. The Council's Landscape Officer originally advised that whilst he considered the landscape proposals to be positive, he had concerns about the location of the allotment parking. He considered that this could be easily inverted so that there is any area of mitigation/screening to the rear of the existing residential dwellings, rather than a car park area. The applicant has subsequently updated the plans to address this concern.*

*Updated boundary treatment details and landscape plans (hard and soft) have been received during the application process to reflect the changes made in response to design and open space concerns. These are deemed acceptable.*

### *Forestry*

*A revised Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA), Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) and Tree Protection Plans (TPPs) have been received since the drafting of the committee report in response to concerns raised by the Council's Forestry Officer in relation to possible conflicts with existing trees and the proposed allotment car park and swale.*

*In response, the updated information proposes a reduced pruning specification for tree 30T (the impacted tree), an amended shape for the proposed Swale to reduce the impact on the RPA of tree 30T and proposed Cellweb construction for the access to the allotments.*

*The Council's Forestry Officer advises whilst this will not entirely alleviate the impact of the development upon this tree (30T), it does represent in a reduction in the level of possible impact. The constraints of the site do not permit all development to be removed from the RPA entirely. The Council's Forestry Officer advises that in the event of approval, a condition to ensure the implementation of the AIA, AMS and tree protection measures should be included.*

*It is considered that the benefits of the wider development, in conjunction with the updated plans to reduce the possible impact of the development upon this particular tree are sufficient to outweigh the harm in this instance*

### *Highways*

*The site access and off-site highways mitigation measures were dealt with on the outline application, which included the provision of a new roundabout.*

*The Council's Head of Strategic Infrastructure (HSI) has advised that the proposed road infrastructure layout is in principle, acceptable for adoption. The level of off street parking for the residential units complies with CEC parking standards.*

*There is a pedestrian footway & cycleway provided on one side of the main spine road with a 2m footpath on the other. It is important that the cycleway is provided to the site boundary, which it does, to potentially link to the safeguarded land to the north. There are two other pedestrian links provided to Northwich Road from the site, these are required as they will provide access to the proposed pedestrian crossing on Northwich Road.*

*A small car park is provided for the allotments (12 spaces). The Council's HSI has concerns about this level of provision. However, it should be noted that additional parking spaces have been provided around the site as it was deemed from a design perspective, that by adding the additional parking in different locations on site, the area didn't become too car dominated.*

*For the above reasons, the application proposals are deemed to adhere with the relevant highway and parking policies of the development plan.*

### *Amenity*

*Policy DC3 of the MBLP states that development should not significantly injure the amenities of adjoining or nearby residential property or sensitive uses due to (amongst other considerations); loss of privacy, sunlight and daylight, an overbearing impact and environmental considerations. Policy DC38 provides the recommended separation standards.*

*Policy SE1 of the CELPS states that development should ensure an appropriate level of privacy for new and existing residential properties.*

*The closest existing neighbouring properties to the application site are the occupiers of the properties to the south of the site, on the opposite side of Northwich Road, the occupier's of Memorial House to the south-east corner which shares two boundaries with the application site, the occupiers of the properties along Warren Avenue to the east and the occupiers of the closest properties to the north-east which are accessed off Spinney Lane.*

*The properties on the southern side of Northwich road would all be at least 45 metres away from the closest dwelling. This distance more than adheres with the recommended policy standards ensuring the occupiers of these properties should be not impacted by the proposed development in relation to; loss of light, privacy or an overbearing impact.*

*Memorial House, located to the south-east of the site, would again adhere with the minimum separation standards, ensuring the existing and future occupiers would not be impacted in relation to the above considerations.*

*The closest properties on Warren Avenue would all be well in excess of the minimum recommended standards from the closest of the proposed dwellings with a proposed allotment providing an intervening buffer. As such, the amenity of the occupiers of these closest neighbouring dwellings would not be detrimentally impacted in relation to loss of light, privacy or an overbearing impact.*

*There is also a landscape buffer between the proposed new housing and the properties on the Spinney and a distance between built form that comfortably ensures that these neighbouring properties are far enough away from the site so not to be impacted in relation to the above considerations.*

*In consideration of the amenities of the future occupiers of the proposed development, the layout adheres to, or closely adheres with, the recommended separation standards within the development plan to ensure the future occupiers of the proposed development are not detrimentally impacted in terms of light, privacy or an overbearing impact from each other.*

*Although some of the proposed gardens are a little on the small size, for this area of Cheshire East, the Council have no minimum garden size standards. Notwithstanding this, it is deemed that they are sufficient in order for the future occupiers to enjoy normal activities e.g. sitting out, hanging washing, BBQs etc. Furthermore, the site benefits from a large area of shared public green space to the north of the development.*

*In relation to environmental amenity, the acceptability of the different elements are considered below;*

#### *Noise*

*In consideration of aviation noise, the application site remains outside of aviation noise contours that would give rise to concerns. As such, aviation noise is not a material planning consideration.*

*In relation to road traffic noise, the site lies north of the A5033. A Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) was submitted in support of the outline application and concluded that the proposed development should not result in any adverse impacts resulting from road traffic noise. The NIA includes a detailed scheme of; acoustic glazing, acoustically treated ventilation and localised noise barriers to reduce the noise from traffic in the worst affected outdoor living areas to Northwich Road (a requirement of Condition 10 the outline application). The Council's Environmental Protection Officer has advised that the mitigation details submitted are acceptable.*

#### *Air Quality*

*As part of the outline approval, Condition 13 required each property with allocated off road parking to include a single Mode 2 complaint electric vehicle charging point. The detail of this has been provided to the satisfaction of the Council's Environmental Protection Officer. There are no other air quality matters to be addressed as part of this reserved matters application.*

#### *Contaminated Land*

*As part of the outline application, contaminated land was considered. It was determined that there were no specific contaminated land issues subject to a number of conditions. These included; Condition 15 – Prior submission/approval of Phase II contaminated land report, Condition 16 – Prior submission/approval of any soil forming materials and Condition 17 – Works to stop if contamination is identified.*

*The detail of the above shall be considered as part of a discharge of conditions application. There are no further contaminated land matters to consider as part of the current application.*

*For the above reasons, the application proposals are not deemed to have a detrimental impact upon amenity and would adhere with the relevant amenity policies of the development plan.*

#### *Ecology*

*There are various ecology matters to consider. These are broken down into the following subsections and assessed accordingly.*

#### *Designated Sites*

*This application site falls within Natural England's SSSI Impact risk zones. An 'assessment of likely significant effects' under the Habitat Regulations was completed by the applicant and submitted in support of the consented outline application at this site. No likely significant effects were identified at the outline stage and no mitigation was required.*

*Natural England have reviewed the submission and advised that they have 'no objections'. Based on the submitted plans, they do not consider that the proposed development will have significant adverse impacts on statutorily protected nature conservation sites or landscapes.*

#### *Badgers*

*The Council's Nature Conservation Officer advises that the drainage proposals would have a direct effect on disused badger sett. Assuming the sett remains inactive, the Council's Nature Conservation Officer advises that the proposed drainage works would not have a significant effect on badgers. Acceptable contingency measures have been submitted to cover the possibility that the sett did become active at the time of the drainage works. As the status of setts can change, the Council's Nature Conservation Officer advises that if consent is granted, a condition should be attached which requires the submission of an updated badger survey prior to the commencement of any drainage related works within 30 metres of the disused sett.*

#### *Bats*

*An updated bat survey has been undertaken of the trees on site. The following trees were identified as having moderate or above potential to support roosting bats: 30T, 32T, 35T. Arboricultural works are proposed to 30T. This tree has now been subject to a bat survey and no evidence of roosting bats were identified. The proposed works to this tree are therefore not likely to affect roosting bats.*

*Construction related lighting may result in a localised effect on bats foraging and commuting in the vicinity of the proposed drainage works. To avoid this impact, the Council's Nature Conservation Officer advises that a condition should be attached that no lighting should be used during construction of the drainage works.*

*The Councils' Nature Conservation Officer has advised that construction related noise and vibration associated with the drainage works is unlikely to have a significant effect on bats.*

#### *Hedgerows*

*Native hedgerows are a priority habitat and hence a material consideration. As anticipated at the outline stage, the proposed development will result in the loss of a section of hedgerow to facilitate the site entrance and roundabout. The Council's Nature Conservation Officer advises that compensatory native species hedgerow planting must be provided to address this loss.*

*The landscape plans have now been updated to show the extent of the compensatory hedgerow proposed and the Council's Nature Conservation Officer advises that this is acceptable.*

*One significant length of proposed new hedgerow is proposed outside of the site edged red. However, it does fall within the blue edge of the application which denotes the applicant's ownership of this land. As such, in the event of approval, a condition is proposed to secure this provision. The applicant has agreed to this.*

#### *Habitat Landscape Management Plan*

*The Council's Nature Conservation Officer advises that the submitted updated management plan is acceptable. If reserved matters consent is granted a condition is required to secure its implementation.*

#### *Adherence with Ecology conditions on outline permission*

- *Condition 19 (Submission of a ground nesting bird strategy): Submitted detail acceptable*

- *Condition 20 (Updated badger survey): Updated survey submitted as required by condition. Survey shows that the proposal is unlikely to have an effect on any known badger sett. Although the proposal would result in some loss of foraging habitat, this would be limited*
- *Condition 21 (Lighting to avoid impacts of wildlife): Updated plans have been received and deemed acceptable*
- *Condition 22 (Ecology enhancement strategy): A strategy has been received. The Council's Nature Conservation Officer advises that this includes acceptable proposals, a new wildlife pond, native species planting and sufficient bird and bat boxes.*
- *Condition 23 (Hedgehog gaps): Proposals submitted are acceptable*

### Flood Risk and Drainage

*The entire site falls within a Flood Zone 1, which is deemed to have a low probability of flooding. As part of the outline application, the Council's Flood Risk Manager raised no flood risk concerns in principle, but requested the applicant submitted finalised plans that propose sustainable drainage systems that do not increase the risk of flooding on or off-site. This was added as a condition on the outline application (Condition 5). This detail is being considered by the Council under a discharge of conditions application (19/1803D) and if deemed to be acceptable, the proposal is deemed to provide acceptable drainage infrastructure that would not result in flood risk concerns. The Environment Agency have raised no objections on flood risk grounds.*

*United Utilities raised no objections on the outline application and again have raised no issues in relation to the current application, subject to a condition that no surface water shall discharge to the existing public sewerage system either directly or indirectly in accordance with the submitted information.*

*The application proposals are therefore deemed to adhere with Policy SE13 of the CELPS.*

### Affordable Housing

*It was a requirement of the S106 agreement as part of the outline permission that the scheme would provide 57 affordable units.*

*The submission shows that the scheme will provide the required 57 units and are split directly to the required 65%/35% tenure split.*

*The revised proposed Affordable housing plan shows the provision of an appropriate mix of property sizes and split. Furthermore, the affordable housing officer is satisfied with the siting of the provision which is now better distributed throughout the site. An acceptable affordable housing statement has now also been provided.*

### Open Space

*The application proposes; a sports pitch, a play area, an orchard and an allotment. The acceptability of these elements are considered below;*

#### *Sports Pitch*



*An 11 v 11 sports pitch is proposed (87.8 metres x 51.2 metres), including run-offs for U13/14 football. The Council's Open Space Officer advises that this will satisfy the Playing Pitch Strategy; comply with the outline planning consent and the local community. A Football Pitch document has been provided that includes more detail and a management and maintenance regime for a minimum period of up to 15 years, again, deemed to be acceptable and should be conditioned.*

#### *Play Area*

*The requirement is for 40sqm of Public Open Space, 20sqm of which should be for children's play [formal and informal]. Originally, just a LEAP was proposed where there should also be a requirement for a LAP. The applicant has provided updated plans in order to provide this requirement. The siting of the LEAP and LAP are together in an area of Public Open Space towards the centre of the site. This is deemed to be a good location so all future occupiers of the scheme and wider members of the community can access the facility. The Council's ANSA Open Space Officer raises no objections to the proposed updated plan.*

#### *Orchard*

*The Council's Open Space Officer originally had concerns regarding the location of the proposed Orchard, with a preference that they are located within the allotments. However, the officer has accepted the applicant's rationale that, if the allotments are to be transferred over to the Town Council, essentially, they will become semi-private and will not be used and benefited by everyone within the development and within the local community. Moving the orchard within the Allotments will remove the natural connection people can have whilst walking & cycling through the development.*

#### *Allotment*

*The Council's ANSA Open Space Officer is supportive of the position of the allotments and the associated proposed car park because it will assist in accessibility. In consideration of the associated boundary treatment, a higher treatment was agreed during the application process to give more security whilst still in keeping with the site. In addition, the allotment car park surfacing has been amended to be tarmac for maintenance purposes at the request of the Council's Open Space Officer.*

*The revised plans received during the application process in order to show the correct curvature in the swale design only. The Council's ANSA Officer has raised no objections to this slight change.*

#### *POS pathways*

*The Council's Open Space Officer was originally concerned about the surfacing materials proposed and their suitability for year-round use. The Officer advises that Self Binding Gravel was not an acceptable option for routes within the proposed development. Self binding gravel is a maintenance burden. It does not provide a long term, accessible surface, it deteriorates quickly, becomes dirty, uneven and unusable to all but the most mobile and in 'outdoor' shoes. As a result of this concern, the applicant updated to plans to show that the surfacing will now be tarmac, which is welcomed by the Council's Open Space Officer.*

#### *Public Rights of Way*

*The Council's Public Rights of Way Officer has advised that the proposal does not appear to affect a public rights of way.*

### Other Matters

*The associated outline planning application included a number of requirements to include details of certain elements of the scheme with the reserved matters application. It is confirmed that all of this documentation has been received to the satisfaction of the relevant consultees.*

### **Conclusions**

*The principle of the erection of 190 dwellings on this site, along with access arrangements has already been permitted under application 173853M. This application considers the remaining Reserved Matters, which comprise of design considerations including; layout, scale and appearance and also matters of landscaping.*

*The design aspects of the proposals include; layout, scale, form and appearance. These elements have been improved during the application process to an extent where the design of the development is now deemed to be acceptable.*

*Matters of landscaping are satisfactory and is suitable for its purpose, subject to a final review by the Council's Landscape Officer.*

*No issues are raised with regards to; highways, amenity, ecology, flooding and drainage, affordable housing, open space or public rights of way, subject to either final reviews of the revised plans by relevant consultees or conditions where deemed necessary.*

*The application is therefore recommended for APPROVAL, subject to the receipt for further consultation responses.*

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**APPROVE, subject to the following conditions;**

- 1. In accordance with outline permission**
- 2. In accordance with approved plans**
- 3. Submission/approval of facing and roofing materials**
- 4. AIA – Implementation**
- 5. Tree protection – Implementation**
- 6. Submission/approval of updated landscape scheme (to update hard surfacing materials specification)**
- 7. Noise mitigation – Implementation**
- 8. No lighting should be used during construction of the drainage works on Sudlow Lane**
- 9. Hedgerow planting – Implementation**
- 10. Habitat Landscape Management Plan – Implementation**
- 11. Ecology enhancement strategy/plan – Implementation**
- 12. No surface water shall discharge to the existing public sewerage system either directly or indirectly in accordance with the submitted information**

- 13. Football Pitch Installation and Maintenance Strategy – Implementation & submission/approval of a final inspection by sports turf agronomist prior to first use
- 14. Submission/approval of existing and proposed spot levels and finished slab levels

*In order to give proper effect to the Strategic Planning Board's intent and without changing the substance of its decision, authority is delegated to the Acting Head of Planning in consultation with the Chair (or in their absence the Vice Chair) to correct any technical slip or omission in the resolution, before issue of the decision notice.*

