

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

This full planning application is for a proposed essential staff carpark extension to St Bridgets School, Egremont. The current staff carpark is small and cramped, resulting in vehicles reversing out onto the public highway and staff having to park on St Bridgets Lane due to limited carpark spaces available.

The staff carpark extension is therefore the next phase of work to improve vehicle traffic safety and general safeguarding to areas in and around the school site – and follows the recent boundary security fence improvement works as part of the same aim.

The area being developed for the new staff carpark extension is land that has been gifted to the school by the Local Council – and a Certificate of Ownership has subsequently been served on the council accordingly. Consideration has been made to the most effective and appropriate use of this gifted land, and due to its location/ disconnect from the teaching areas - it has been deemed unsuitable for outdoor play use and would be more useful as part of the essential improvements needed to address traffic safety in and around the school site.

The proposal will provide the following;

- 10 nr staff car parking places
- Space for the turning of cars and delivery vans to provide forward gear egress from the school site onto the public highway.
- A made carpark surface comprising permeable tarmac to meet SuDS requirements - with falls to ensure surface water is contained to the site
- External lighting of the carpark
- The capacity to allow the current carpark to be configured to provide a dedicated disabled parking bay, visitor parking bay, future electric vehicle charging bays, and dedicated bicycle storage and refuse areas.
- The layout of the new carpark area extension minimises the impact on the current grassed area – and avoids the roots of young trees present on the adjoining property (which are at a lower level than the new carpark level)

A Bio-Diversity Net Gain Assessment has been undertaken along with a Flood Risk Assessment and both are included within the application.

St Bridget's School in its current incarnation has existed on St Bridget's Lane since 1966 and much has changed on the lane in the subsequent 58 years. The lane hosts six businesses and access to three substantial housing estates, which have grown in size, population and car ownership. This has increased the safeguarding demands placed on school exponentially over the years.

Importantly, in the summer of 2023, without consultation, council funding for St Bridget's Lane crossing officer (lolly-pop person) was removed. Subsequently, the school has engaged with the council and local politicians to better understand the traffic and safety concerns outside school. A recently

ST BRIDGETS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

commissioned traffic survey conducted by the council clearly pointed to a case for action and consideration is ongoing to define and implement traffic calming measures outside school.

The proposed car park extension is a key component in the schools overall strategy to make St Bridget's Lane a safer environment for all. The potential removal of 6-7 staff vehicles from St Bridget's Lane will support easing congestion, reducing collective frustration, benefit neighbouring residents and generally provide a safer environment for all.

The recent boundary fence works has provided inner security to the school site - allowing the staff carpark vehicle access gates to be left open throughout the school day. This has removed the vehicle manoeuvring hazard of vehicles having to stop on the public highway to open and shut the gates. And importantly the new carpark extension will avoid the need for cars to reverse out onto the public highway.

The school intend also to consult with the council regards the installation of crash railings along the pavement/ kerb immediately in front of the school as part of the traffic calming/ management of the lane. This will both provide additional protection to the playground areas from passing traffic – but will also prevent unauthorised drop offs along the no stopping road markings (yellow zig-zag lines).

EXISTING PHOTOGRAPHS



Current staff carpark is cramped and is not large enough to facilitate all staff parking – with staff having to park on St Bridgets Lane.

Cars and delivery vans are required to reverse out onto St Bridgets Lane as there is not sufficient turning space.



The new staff carpark extension will increase the amount of parking spaces available, removing staff car parking on St Bridget Lane and allow for a turning area for forward gear egress from the school site onto the public highway.

The new staff carpark extension will allow capacity within the existing carpark for dedicated disable persons, visitor and EV charging parking bays.



The current carpark is shared with storage containers – and their relocation to elsewhere on the school site will be subject to a separate planning application

The new carpark extension will allow for refuse dumpsters to be relocated to a dedicated area – along with the creation of a staff and visitor bicycle store area.



Proposed staff carpark extension to be located on recently gifted land to the school by the LA.

The carpark section of the land will involve the removal of the topsoil and replacement with hardcore and permeable surfacing, comprising; 60mm AC20 Open Graded binder a 40mm AC10 Open Graded Surface Course.