LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: 27th July 2010

Report of

Assistant Director, Planning & Environmental Protection

Contact Officer:

Aled Richards Tel: 020 8379 3857 Andy Higham Tel: 020 8379 3848 Mr R Lancaster Tel: 020 8379 4019 Ward: Chase

Side

Application Number : TP/10/0182Category: Minor Development

LOCATION: Oaktree School, Chase Side, London, N14 4HN

PROPOSAL: Construction of a 9m high airhall to existing rear playground to provide a covered play area.

Applicant Name & Address:

Oaktree School, Chase Side, London, N14 4HN

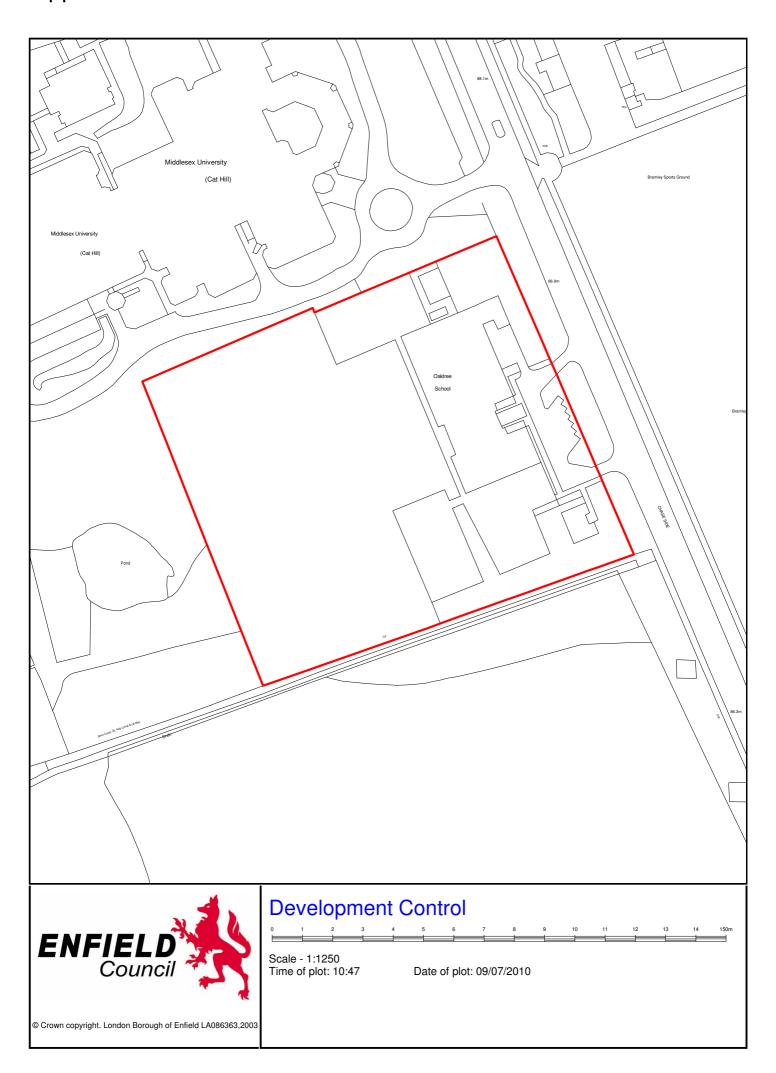
Agent Name & Address:

Mr Michele Sautschak, Rennie & Partners, 26, High Road, East Finchley, London, N2 9PJ

RECOMMENDATION:

That in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations) 1992, planning permission be deemed to be **GRANTED** subject to the conditions.

Application No:- TP/10/0182



1 Site and Surroundings

1.1 Oaktree School comprises a single storey building located within a mixed use area, on the western side of Chase Side, south of Cat Hill roundabout. The main access to the school is from Chase Side. To the north and west of the site is the Cat Hill campus of Middlesex University whilst to the south is open space. Opposite are Chicken Shed Theatre and the Bramley Road Sports Ground. The Borough boundary with Barnet runs along the western and southern boundaries of the site.

2 Proposal

- 2.1 Permission is sought for a 9m air hall situated to the side and rear of the main school building on an existing hardcourt area.
- 2.2 The school is a mixed day-school for pupils with a range of complex needs, including social, emotional and behavioural difficulties linked to their learning. It provides for pupils aged 7-19, but the school's emphasis has begun to move towards the older children. Consequently, there is a need for additional facilities catering for the needs of these older age groups. There would be no increase in pupil numbers and staff numbers would also remain the same, with additional staff only required in response to individual child needs, in line with current practice.

3 Relevant Planning Decisions

3.1 None

4 Consultations

- 4.1 Statutory and non-statutory consultees
- 4.1.1 Environmental Health raises no objections
- 4.1.2 Barnet raises no objections
- 4.2 Public
- 4.2.1 A consultation letter has been sent to Middlesex University. No comments have been received.

5 Relevant Policy

5.1 Unitary Development Plan

(I)GD1 (I)GD2 (II) GD1 (II) GD3	New development to have appropriate regard to its surroundings New development to improve the environment New developments are appropriately located Aesthetic and functional designs
(II)GD6 (II)GD8 (II)CS1	Traffic implications Access and servicing Facilitate work of various community facilities

(II)CS2 Siting and Design of Community Facilities to comply with

Council policies

(II)CS3 Community facilities which are responsibility of Council to be

provided in optimal locations and provide an effective and

efficient use of land

5.2 London Plan

3A.21	Education Facilities
3C.23	Parking strategy
4A.14	Sustainable drainage
4B.8	Respect Local Context and Character

5.3 <u>Local Development Framework</u>

5.3.1 The Enfield Plan is now proceeding through the Examination in Public process into the soundness of the Plan. It is considered some weight can now be attributed to the policies contained in the Core Strategy and the following policies from this document are of relevance:

SO5 Education, health and wellbeing

CP8 Education

5.4 Other Material Considerations

PPS1 Delivering Sustainable Development

PPG13 Transport

6 Analysis

- 6.1 Situated to the rear of the main single storey school building, adjacent to the southern boundary the western boundary of the site, the air hall would be 18.6m wide, 33.6m long and 9m high. The proposal therefore represents a significant structure which will project above the height of the existing school. which the existing buildings will only partially screen. However, the site does befit from significant mature tree screening along all boundaries including albeit it is not as thick along the Chase Side frontage. Nevertheless, and taking into account that fact that the building would be 55 metres back from the road frontage with the tree screen offering limited perspectives, its impact on the visual amenity and character of the area is considered to be limited.
- 6.2 In arriving at this conclusion, the fact that Barnet as the adjoining authority, have raised no objection on visual grounds, is also noted
- 6.3 Whilst the proposal would result in the loss of the outdoor hardcourt area, given that the proposal provides an indoor play area; there is no net loss of play facilities for the school. Furthermore the school would retain ample outdoor space and the proposed air hall would provide a more functional use in all weather conditions. Therefore the proposal is not considered to harm the school's ability to provide adequate play space for its pupils.
- Due to the size and siting of the proposed air hall and the distance to the nearest neighbouring site, the proposal is not considered to harm neighbouring occupier's amenities.

7 Conclusion

7.1 In the light of the above, although the proposal would be a large structure, the benefits to the facilities on offer at this school outweigh any perceived visual effects.

8 Recommendation

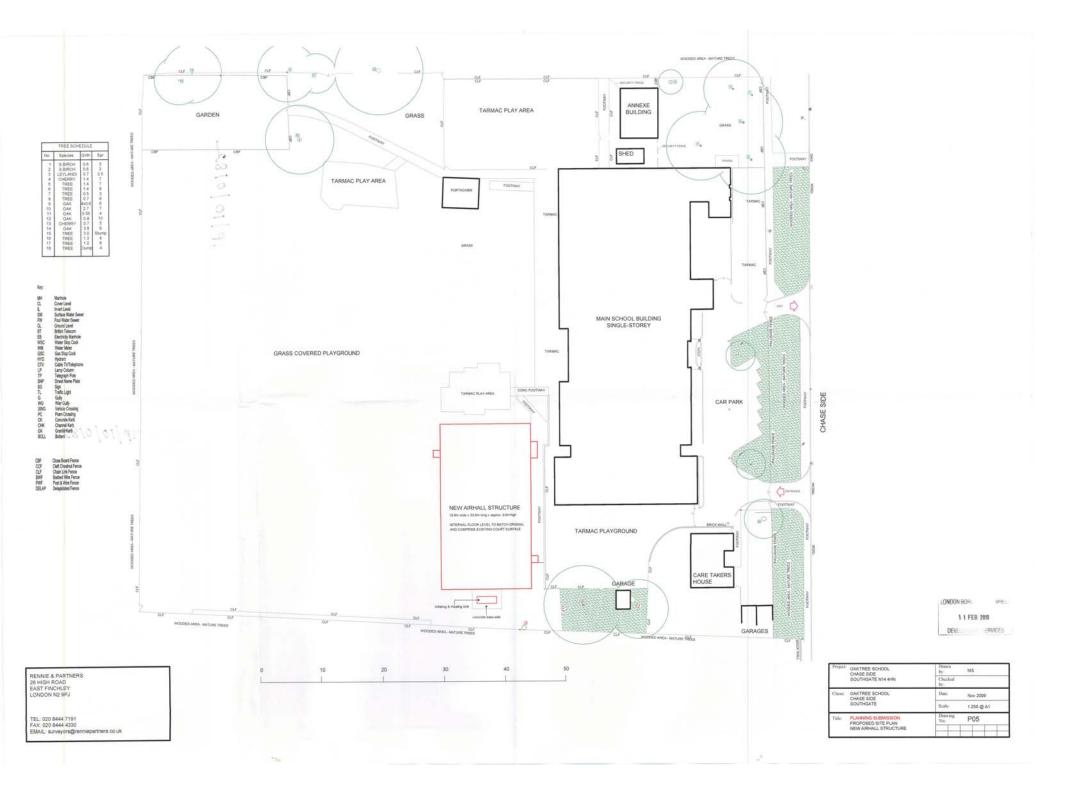
- 8.1 That in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations) 1992, planning permission be deemed to be GRANTED subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. The external appearance shall accord with that described on the submitted plans and application form.

Reason: To ensure a satisfactory appearance.

2. The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of the decision notice.

Reason: To comply with the provisions of S.51 of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 8.2 The reasons for granting planning permission are:
 - The proposed air hall actively contributes to the enhanced provision of educational facilities and thus is compatible of Policies (II) CS1, (II) CS2 and (II) CS3 of the Unitary Development Plan; 3A.17 and 3A.24 of the London Plan; and, PPS1: Sustainable Development.
 - 2. The proposed air hall does not detract from the character and appearance of the surrounding area and would not serve to undermine residential amenity to neighbouring properties having regard to Policies (I) GD1, (I) GD2, (II) GD1 and (II) GD3 of the Unitary Development Plan.



TP/10/0/82

