Proposed alterations, improvements and extensions to The Fields Health & Fitness Club
Wheatfield Way, Hinckley, Leicester LE10 1YG

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

DETAILED PLANNING SUBMISSION

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
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ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS TO THE FIELDS HEALTH & FITNESS CLUB WHEATFIELD WAY, HINCKLEY, LEICESTER LE10 1YG

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MAY 2008

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INTRODUCTION

The Design and Access statement has been prepared in respect of the proposed Alterations and Extensions to The Fields Health & Fitness Club, Wheatfield Way, Hinckley, Leicester LE10 1YG

B K Architecture Ltd is committed to quality design. The Design and Access statement presented here is to supplement the planning application in respect of the aforementioned site in line with the government planning guidance and demonstrates the processes B K Architecture Ltd have followed in arriving at a scheme which, in our opinion, fits into its surroundings, helps to improve the built environment and makes a positive contribution to the locality and function of the site.

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GENERALLY.

The site is an existing fully operational and established fitness club. The club benefits from its own car park which is situated adjacent to the Club house and is unaffected by the proposals.
The planning application relates to

- The creation of a Spinning Studio (static cycling) and Gymnasium extension within the existing double height "Studio" by installing a new section of floor.
- The formation of new windows associated with the above.
- The formation of a steel fire escape staircase relative to the above.
- A small extension to the North East of the building and adjacent internal alterations in order to improve the appearance and facilities relative to the buildings access.

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DESIGN & ACCESS

The existing fitness club is a well established facility with a consistent membership number. In such a competitive field it is necessary to continually assess club facilities and where necessary alter, adapt and improve them in order to retain the support of its members.

The provision of a high, large "Studio" is now considered to be outdated and it is space that could be put to better use. "Spinning" is now a very popular activity and additional "Gymnasium" space for cardio vascular exercise equipment will allow the equipment to be arranged in a better configuration

Weight training is becoming a more popular activity and additional space, away from the main gymnasium is considered to be desirable. Weight training adjacent to persons using running, rowing equipment and the like can be intimidating and therefore we have devised a space that is partitioned off from other activity areas.

Natural light into all of the Gym areas is enhanced by the formation of additional windows.

Due to the travel distance from the far corner of the additional first floor space it has been necessary to provide an escape staircase. The staircase is not required as an access from floor to floor and so a simple galvanised metal spiral staircase with colour coated perforated guarding has been selected. The "lid" has been included as it is normally required by Building Control.

In keeping with the requirement to provide facilities to benefit the members it is considered desirable to provide a space where they can meet fellow members and relax after workout sessions prior to leaving. In providing this facility by altering and extending the present reception area it has been possible to give more prominence to the entrance and also enhance the corner of the building adjacent to the road. The extension position is such that it does not take up any of the present parking spaces. The cycle racks are used regularly and will be re-sited in a suitable location.

The present ramped access to the building is to be replaced with a new ramp and guarding that is more in keeping with a private fitness club.

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Access to the building is provided for ambulant or disabled persons in the form of a new larger entrance lobby that accords with the requirements of Part M of the Building Regulations. The existing easy access toilet facility is to be retained.

The present access to the site for vehicles and pedestrians is good and remains unchanged.

CONCLUSION

The improvements alterations and extension to the present Fitness Centre will ensure the continuing success of the Club and the affects that has on contributing to the local economy.

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