Design and Access Statement for the proposed canopy at Stanton Under Bardon Primary School

The decision to erect a canopy over a raised deck area in the playground of Stanton Under Bardon Primary School was made in consideration of the following:

As an old and small school, we are inevitably restricted for space. Currently 4 age bands share one large teaching area, which is not conducive to the most effective learning for very young children.

An Ofsted inspection in 2006 highlighted the need to give these children immediate access to an outdoor area. We propose to rearrange the classes so that the youngest children have a designated area in school, which is separate from other children, and thus more sympathetic to their developmental needs. The proposed classroom space is not large enough and so the erection of a veranda would provide a larger teaching area in order to maximise its potential, this would need ready access from the classroom, which can be gained by installing double doors.

It is proposed that the doors lead onto a raised platform (compensating for the slope of the playground) which would house a covered and secure area which extends onto an outdoor base. This would provide children with extra space, some secure storage and a designated outdoor area. Not only will this provide better learning opportunities for young children, it will also help minimise distractions for children in the shared class base. All of these changes are designed to maximise learning opportunities, social interaction and welfare of all children.

In order to utilise the canopy fully it is proposed to enclose the sides with an opaque cladding. This provides the following benefits:

- provides shade
- shelter from wind and weather, (the site is particularly exposed)
- provides a level of security to play equipment stored beneath the canopy

Note: The canopy will shelter 50% of a raised timber deck area, (not included within this application).

4.17 POLICY E4

In the determination of planning applications regard will be had to the wider setting of new buildings; new development should respect the character of its surroundings, in terms of scale, design, density, height, massing, materials of construction, the spaces between and around buildings, and the street scene generally.

It was concluded that, whilst cheaper canopies of a plainer design are available on the market, the canopy, chosen for it's quality of design befits the main school building.

The frame will be powder coated Green to match the existing school gloss work colours.

The proposed curved canopy, (built over a raised timber deck), will be situated at the rear of the site, screened on 2 sides by permanent brick built structures.

The canopy will stand approximately 4.2m above ground level abutting the wall, falling to 3.2m above ground level at it's eaves.
Note: the canopy is raised to accommodate the raised decking area, (1.2m above ground level), as shown on the 3d illustration.

The dimensions of the canopy on plan are 6 x 4.9m.
The main frame is constructed using powder coated steel, with white opaque cladding to roof and walls.

The proposal will be accessible for disabled persons from within the school. Whilst an access ramp is being provided to the raised deck, difficult existing site levels dictate that is cost prohibitive to comply with building regulations.
Steps to the raised deck will be provided in full compliance with Building Regulation.

The form and material s used to create the canopy have been chosen to contrast with the red brick and slate roof of the traditional school building. Any attempt to "blend in" with the main school would be difficult to achieve.

4.29 POLICY E8

Development will be permitted only where appropriate crime prevention measures are incorporated as an integral part of the design, layout and landscaping features of the proposal.

The canopy will be enclosed to protect play equipment stored within from casual theft.