HINCKLEY BAPTIST CHURCH – PATHWAYS CENTRE
DISABLED ACCESS
PLANNING STATEMENT ref pathways01/RCA/05.03.2009

Summary of Need

The schoolrooms attached to the sanctuary of Hinckley Baptist Church have been modernised and converted into a community centre. Because of the sloping nature of the site and the adjacent Baptist Walk provision of disabled access ramps would be a great advantage to those groups using the site.

Background

The schoolrooms attached to the Church had previously been used for activities connected to the Church which mainly took place in evenings only.

These rooms have been modernised at considerable expense including the provision of up to date toilets and disabled toilet, shower facilities, new kitchen and catering equipment, atrium coffee bar area, disabled lift and complete redecoration including windows and doors.

The result has been that various groups now meet at the centre which is fully utilised during the working day. These groups include Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, Mums and Tots, Youth Club, Art Club, Millfield Day Centre, The Prince's Trust, Hinckley Homeless and Mind.

Design and Access Statement

Because of the sloping nature of the site the rooms that form the community centre are on two levels. Internal access has been achieved by providing new facilities at the correct floor level and installation of a disabled lift.

This application refers to two additional disabled ramps to be constructed externally to provide access from the Church car park to Baptist Walk and from Baptist Walk to the main entrance.

The ramps will be constructed on the property of the Church but because Baptist Walk slopes the steps at both these points are only flush with Baptist Walk at one

end of the step. To provide a truly smooth wheelchair access with no lip would require a slight regrading of the tarmac on the Baptist Walk side of the steps.

In the preliminary consultation H & BBC advised that approval of the County Council would be required for this prior to the planning application. A site meeting was held with LCC and they confirmed they had no objection in an email from Peter Shale dated 10 Feb 2009 a copy of which is enclosed.

The proposed ramp and regrading from Baptist Walk to the main entrance is shown on drawing number 100/1B and the proposed ramp from Baptist Walk to the car park is shown on drawing number 100/2B.

Landscaping Details

The only planting on the current site is a two metre wide border on the southern boundary between the Church and no. 7 Baptist Walk consisting of shrubs and flowers. This will be unaffected by the proposed works.

Parking Provision

It is estimated that the existing tarmac parking area, currently unmarked can accommodate 17 cars. At completion of the works it is proposed that this area be formally marked out with 16 spaces plus 1 disabled space.

Materials

The construction of the ramp and the regrading from Baptist Walk to the main entrance will be carried out using dense bitumen macadam.
The construction of the ramp and steps from Baptist Walk to the car park will be carried out in concrete with a blue brick facing to match the existing walls as requested by Mr Barry Whirrity in the preliminary consultation. The regrading of Baptist Walk will be carried out using dense bitumen macadam.

Enclosures

Drawing no. 100/1B
Drawing no. 100/2B
Planning Statement ref pathways01/RCA/05.03.2009
Email from Peter Shale Leicestershire County Council dated 10.02.2009
Email from Barry Whirrity H&BBC dated 18.09.2008