Harton Village Kindergarten Improvements.
Supporting Statement.

This statement has been produced to accompany a planning application for a scheme of improvements to Harton Village Kindergarten, Sunderland Road, South Shields.

The Site and Surroundings.

The site is located around 150m to the north of Harton Nook shopping parade, on the western side of Sunderland Road. Originally constructed as a community library, the property now operates as a private kindergarten, catering for a wide age range of children, who are supervised by highly trained and qualified staff. Set within its own spacious and secure grounds, the Kindergarten provides its clientele with excellent opportunities for indoor and outdoor play and learning.



The prevailing character of the surrounding area is suburban/residential in nature. Whilst the site does not lie within a Conservation Area, the agent has been advised by the Council that the cherry trees that are present on site are protected by virtue of a Tree Preservation Order. The property is not Listed, nor are there any Listed Buildings within close proximity of the site. The site benefits from its own 20 space car park, with access taken from Sunderland Road.

The proposal.

A scheme of upgrades is proposed to improve the facilities that are on offer at the Kindergarten. These will be focussed around the north eastern corner of the site and will involve replacing an existing “summer house” style classroom (**X**) with a larger “lodge style” type. This improved classroom area will cater to the older children who attend the Kindergarten and will release much-needed space in the main building for the increasing numbers of children who would like to attend.

The classroom lodge will be of robust construction and fully compliant with all Building Regulations and Health and Safety Requirements with adequate access provision and facilities for disabled children and staff.

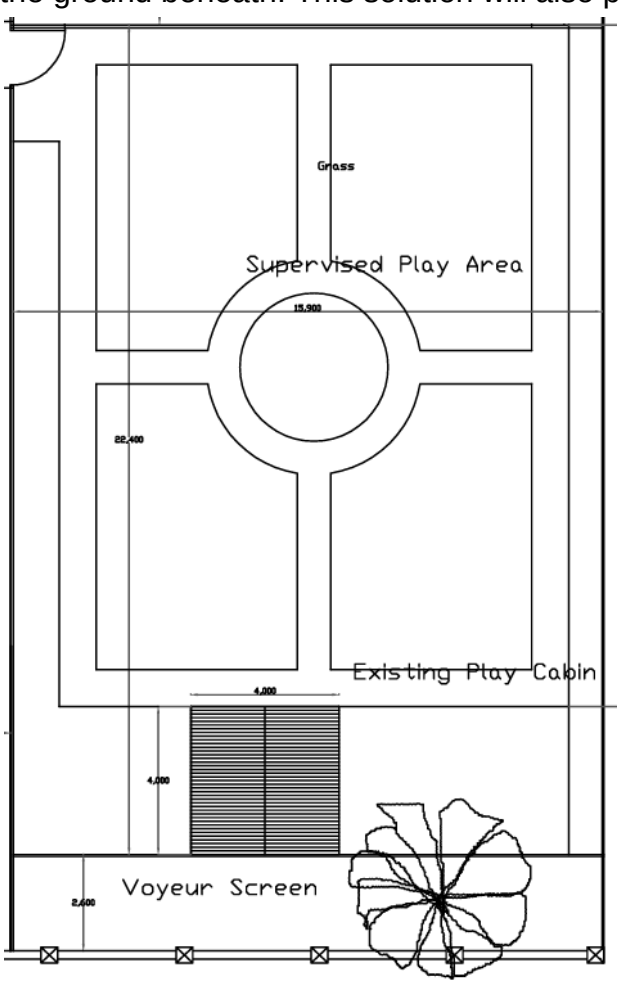
The outdoor play space to the front of the new lodge will also be upgraded and will see the reduction in the number of hard-surfaced footpaths than at present, resulting in an increase in grassed space in order to accommodate a range of age-appropriate play-frames and equipment.

To further improve the privacy to this part of the site, a laurel hedgerow will also be planted behind the existing boundary wall that runs along Sunderland Road.

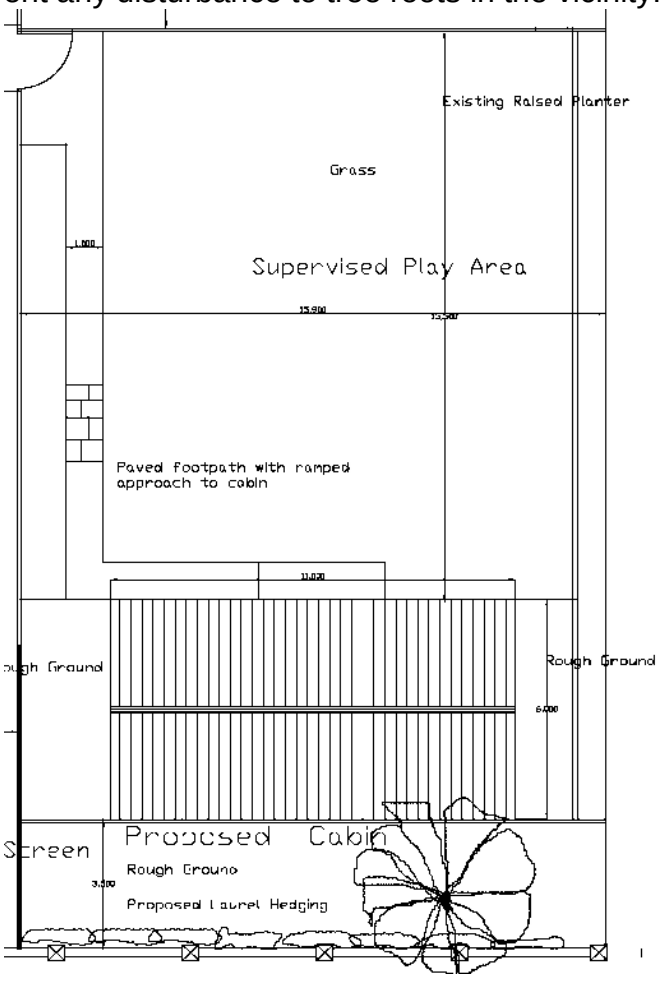
Biodiversity.

The proposed scheme of enhancements will have no adverse effect upon the biodiversity of the application site, for a number of reasons:

- The amount of grassed space is to be increased.
- A laurel hedgerow is to be planted.
- The lodge will be installed upon specially designed pad footings. These will keep the structure raised above ground level, ensuring that a constant air flow and permeability is maintained to the ground beneath. This solution will also prevent any disturbance to tree roots in the vicinity.



Existing



Proposed

Full dimensional drawings of the project are also provided as part of this planning application submission. Further details / specifications of construction / installation methods can be also provided, upon request.