# ITEM NO. B5



Application		Application			
No:	2008/0282	Туре:	Full Application		
Proposal:	Refurbishment of existing seating/formal garden area, including works to trees, understorey and bog planting. Provision of new hard surfacing, seating, erection of gates, archway and ramped access. Decorative railings to be installed on top of the existing wall in places.	Location:	The View, land off Bankside Lane, Bacup		
Report of:	Executive Director of Regulatory Services	Status:	For Publication		
Report to:	Development Control Committee	Date:	1 July 2008		
Applicant:	Groundwork Pennine Lancashire	Determination Expiry Dates	-		
Agent:					
REASON FOR REPORTING Tick Box					
Outside Officer Scheme of Delegation					
<b>Member Call-In</b> Name of Member: Reason for Call-In:					
More than 3 objections received					
Other (please state)		Application of	on Council owned land		

#### **APPLICATION DETAILS**

#### 1. The Site

1.1 The application site is located off Bankside Lane and is an underused seating area and garden which has fallen into a state of disrepair. The site is bounded by a 1.5m stone wall adjacent to Bankside Lane and to the neighbouring properties at 31 and 35 Bankside Lane. The site consists of a partially paved area, some seating and mature trees to the boundaries with some younger specimens elsewhere on the site. Part of the site beyond the paved area slopes

away from the site adjacent to the highway and has a number of mature trees on it.

### 2. Relevant Planning History

2.1 None.

#### 3. The Current Proposal

3.1 The application seeks consent for environmental improvements to the site by resurfacing the area, undertaking some tree work to the existing trees, new planting beneath the trees and in newly created raised beds. Additionally, new railings, gateway and litter bin would be provided together with a new ramped access into the site.

#### 4. Policy Context

### 4.1 National Planning Guidance

PPS1 - Sustainable Development

#### 4.2 Development Plan Policies

Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West

Joint Lancashire Structure Plan (Adopted 2005)

Policy 1 - General Policy

Rossendale District Local Plan (Adopted 1995)

DS1 - Urban Boundary DC1 - Development Criteria DC4 – Materials

# 4.3 Other Material Planning Considerations

# 5. CONSULTATIONS

# 5.1 **INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS**

Estates – No comments received to date. Streetscene & Liveability – No comments received to date.

# 5.2 EXTERNAL CONSULATIONS

Environment Agency –

Lancashire Constabulary –

Lancashire County Council Highways –. No comments received to date.

# 6. **REPRESENTATIONS**

- 6.1 A site notice was posted on the 29 May 2008 and 13 letters were sent to neighbours on the 27 May 2008. One letter has been received objecting to the proposal on the following grounds:
  - The loss of trees would incur a loss of view of local habitat/loss of privacy
  - Concerns over design of the play space

# 7. REPORT

7.1 The main considerations of the application are visual and residential amenity.

This proposal seeks consent for the environmental improvement of a piece of land off Bankside Lane that is currently disused and in a state of disrepair.

- 7.2 The site is accessed from Bankside Lane by a series of steps that lead to a flat stone flagged surface and the area is overgrown and unkempt. The proposal would introduce some environmental improvements to the land and improve the setting of the area. In visual amenity terms, the proposal is acceptable and the materials that are proposed are also considered acceptable. The proposal would accord with the criteria of saved Policy DC1 (Development Criteria) of the Adopted Rossendale District Local Plan.
- 7.3 In residential amenity terms, the site is in located within the Urban Boundary and it would be unlikely to give rise to any loss of light, privacy or overlooking. The proposal also accords in this respect with the criteria of saved Policy DC1 (Development Criteria) of the Adopted Rossendale District Local Plan.
- 7.4 In terms of the letter of objection, the points raised have been discussed with the applicant who has responded as follows *"I think that the residents may have misunderstood the issue of cutting down trees. It is not proposed to cut down a large area of 10 trees, to open up expansive views, but rather to cut down a maximum of 10 trees (possibly many less and some may be self seeded saplings) in order to create tiny, narrow tempting views across the hills. We would time the tree work so that it would not interfere with nesting birds (i.e. August time) and the removal of so few trees is unlikely to have an impact on habitat of birds or squirrels.*

The children who use the area are concerned about the view - this came out in the 3 months of consultation that took place and they would like to see it opened, not only for themselves but other users from other age groups. It is not proposed to install a high fence along the side of the site by number 35 - it was not brought up in consultation and the residents in question already have a high boundary fence in place. Also along this side of the site is the proposed new access ramp so it is unlikely that football will be played at this side as they could hurt someone. The last comment about the development impacting on the view from their house - I believe that by removing a few trees, the view would be improved whilst also being more beneficial for biodiversity by creating woodland glades (used by butterflies and insects) and also by improving the space itself they will no longer be looking onto a run down seating area with drainage issues".

It is considered that the resident's representation relates principally to a loss of view, which is not a material planning consideration.

#### 8. HUMAN RIGHTS

8.1 The relevant provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 and the European Convention on Human Rights have been taken into account in the preparation of this report, particularly the implications arising from the following rights: -

#### Article 8

The right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence.

### Article 1 of Protocol 1

The right of peaceful enjoyment of possessions and protection of property.

### 9. CONCLUSION

The formalisation of the use of the land as an informal recreation area would not impact upon issues of visual or residential amenity or any highway considerations. The materials proposed are considered acceptable and the proposal is in accordance with the aforementioned policies.

#### 10. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Committee approve the application.

# 11. REASONS FOR APPROVAL/REFUSAL

It is considered that the works proposed works on land off Bankside Lane would improve the local environment to the benefit of the local community. Subject to conditional control, the scheme is considered acceptable and would accord with the criteria of saved policies DS1, (Urban Boundary) DC1 (Development Criteria) and DC4 (Materials) of the Adopted Rossendale District Local Plan.

# 12. CONDITIONS

- 1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of three years from the date of this permission Reason: Required by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase 2004 Act
- 2. All materials to be used in the proposed development shall be as stated on the application form and approved drawings and shall not be varied without the prior written permission of the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure that the development will be of satisfactory appearance and to accord with the criteria of Policy DC1 of the Rossendale District Local Plan.

- 3. The development shall be carried out in accordance with drawings dated 9 May and 29 May 2008. Reason: To ensure the development complies with the approved plans and for the avoidance of doubt.
- 4. Any construction works associated with the development hereby approved shall not take place except between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm Monday to Friday and 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on Saturdays. No construction shall take place on Sundays, Good Friday, Christmas Day or Bank Holidays. Reason: To safeguard the amenities of nearby residential properties in accordance with policy DC.1 of the Rossendale District Local Plan.

Contact Officer	
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Bed Plants in raised beds to be positioned on site by CA.	C D D C t C C t	
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existing elders to be removed

existing beech tree to remain

ς.

3.6



Existing access widened – from 1200mm to 1500mm. New entrance feature copings to be installed and contractors to liaise with metalworker re. installation of archway.

> Proposed new ramped access into site at 1500mm wide.

existing trees/saplings to be removed (please <sup>-</sup> see Tree Survey)

All falls on hard surfacing towards shrub beds

Proposed ramp into site with reclaimed random stone wall with flat copings (600x350x50mm) along the outside of the ramp. Wall to taper in height from 1000mm at entrance to 400mm at end of ramp. Ramp 13.8 lin.m long See SC7020/D02

Proposed raised bed at 480mm high made from timber sleepers (200x120mmx2.4m). For planting plan see SC7020/D04 and D03/D05 for raised bed

13.0











