## UPDATE REPORT OF 1 NOVEMBER 2019

# FOR DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING OF 5 NOVEMBER 2019 

## Item B2 2019/0341 - Albert Mill, Market Street, Whitworth

## Planning Contributions - Education

As originally submitted, the proposed development necessitated a financial contribution of $£ 337,717.44$ for $12 \times$ primary and $6 \times$ secondary school places. On the $25^{\text {th }}$ October 2019 Members will note that the applicant amended the development to restrict the occupation of the 48no. 2-bedroom apartments for occupation by over 55 s only. This change was discussed initially with Lancashire County Council Schools Planning Team (LCC) to understand if this would affect the financial contribution sought by LCC for school places. LCC confirmed that it would lead to a reduction in the contribution, and provided an indicative figure of £241,195.50 (made up of 9 primary school places and 4 secondary school places) based on the assumption that the population forecasts remained as they were at the time of the original assessment. Members will note that this figure was used in the committee report.

However, since publication of the committee report, LCC has undertaken a full reassessment of the proposed development based upon the amended apartment scheme and has confirmed that the financial contribution has fallen to $£ 96,740.64$ to fund $4 x$ secondary places i.e. there is no longer a need for the 9 primary school places. This is due to a combination in the reduced pupil yield from the development and also the forecasts have been updated in the time between the original assessment and the latest position, resulting in greater forecasted spare capacity in the 4 primary schools within the 2 mile radius.

As such the recommendation is amended to reflect the reduced education contribution of $£ 96,740.64$.

## Over 55s Restriction

Members have queried whether the occupation of the apartments to over 55 s would apply to all occupants. Advice from the Council's Strategic Housing Manager is that it normally the case that an over 55 occupant can reside with a partner who is under 55.

## Car parking

Members were briefed by Officers on this application on 1 November 2019. During the briefing Members expressed concerns regarding the shortfall of parking spaces
(compared to the parking standards which are set out in the Rossendale Core Strategy Appendix 1 - the development results in a shortfall of 56 spaces.

Members queried whether restricting the occupancy of the apartments to over 55s would change / reduce the car parking standard. Officers can clarify that such a restriction does not change the parking standard i.e. a 2 bedroom apartment necessitates 2 car parking spaces. However, Lancashire County Council's Highway Engineer has informally commented that "...the expectation is that with the family unit shrinking and employment levels reducing there would be a reduction in the need for a second vehicle. Generally the age of the residents is taken as having an effect on peak hour traffic generation levels i.e. the need to travel to work is reduced."

The applicants have been informed of the concerns raised by Members regarding the shortfall in parking spaces and have responded today (4/11/19) with amended plans to show an additional 17 car parking spaces within the application site. The amended plans are attached to this report. The spaces have been achieved by losing some landscaping, easing of the inward flow of the river as it enters the site and plots $74-85$ have been reconfigured. As the amended plans were received only this afternoon, Officers have not had an opportunity to review them in detail, nor seek the views of Lancashire County Council Highways or the Environment Agency. As such Members will be updated in a Further Update Report tomorrow.

## Lauren Ashworth

Principal Planning Officer
04/11/2019


REV C 042019 PLANNING DRAWING

## willacy horsewood partnership

KGG AsSoclates LTD.

ADOPTED /UNADOPTED AREAS
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