

22nd May 2015

Dear Headteacher, staff, Governors and Parents at Pondhu

Following the meeting with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors at Pondhu School on 14th May 2015, clarification was requested as to the Local Authority's intentions in respect of the double Wernick building currently in situ on Pondhu's site. In that respect, we can advise as follows;

The Wernick building was placed on Pondhu's site as a temporary building in lieu of the intention to take Pondhu School to a permanent expansion two form entry school. At the time of the installation, the building was rented from the supplier and temporary planning permission was sought. On reviewing the financial arrangements it became apparent that it would be cheaper to purchase the Wernick building rather than continue to rent. By purchasing the building the LA would then be able to use it on other sites where expansion was needed when it was no longer required at Pondhu and would be a more cost effective solution.

In such circumstances, the LA does then need to apply for permanent planning permission as the building can no longer be deemed temporary provision. The LA had begun that process, as it must do, but it does not mean that the Wernick building on site will now be permanent – it is still part of the phasing process planned to take Pondhu to a two form entry school. The LA does appreciate that had Pondhu School been advised of the purchase of the Elliot building and the subsequent change to planning approvals required, this would have reassured parents, staff and governors that the LA remained committed to the permanent expansion of Pondhu School.

Following discussions with Planning and Property colleagues after the meeting with Pondhu on 14th May 2015, we have been advised by Planning colleagues that the LA can revise its planning application to extend the temporary planning permission; it is my understanding that we can apply for this for a maximum three year period. The rationale for this approach would be that the temporary building is still needed to facilitate the planned expansion for the school to become a two form entry and that both the LA and Pondhu School remain committed to working to achieve that. The LA now intends to proceed with an extended temporary planning application instead of permanent.

We hope that this will reassure all those concerned that the Wernick Building is not going to be a permanent structure on Pondhu's site.

Please let me know if there are any further queries or concerns in respect of the Planning Permissions being sought.

Kind regards

Sharon Hindley
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Learning & Achievement Service

Education, Health & Social Care Directorate