

## Design and Access Statement

Norton Pre-School provides complete wrap around childcare and early education for all children aged 2-5 years old. The PreSchool also provides a breakfast club (7:30-9:00am) and after-school club (3.00pm to 6.00pm) for children at the adjacent Norton CEVC Primary School. Currently the Pre-School has 103 registered children including those registered for breakfast and after-school club, 32 of whom make up our early years. The maximum capacity for any session is 26 children. Norton is a vibrant country village with excellent links to Bury St Edmunds and the A14, and the Pre-School, both in itself and in its support of the Primary School, and are strong attractions. We were recently graded Good in all areas by OFSTED. The building in which pre-school is currently accommodated was erected in 2005, under a temporary building planning application. This was extended in 2011 for 7 years, and again in 2017 with the current planning permission due to expire in March 2024. Covid had obvious impacts for us which prevented us from fundraising but we are well subscribed.

Norton Pre-School is a registered charity (no. 1020883), governed by a committee of trustees. The current committee is actively pursuing options for a permanent facility for the Pre-School, although these are unlikely to materialise prior to the expiry of the current planning permission.

To enable the on-going operation of the Pre-School and the essential services it provides to the children and their parents/carers, this application requests the extension of planning permission and some external changes to enhance and further prolong the existing building and vastly increase its energy efficiency, while a permanent setting is secured. Design The Pre-School comprises one building, with a single large main room and ancillary services such as sanitary facilities, a small kitchen and office on the west side.

Outside the building is a well-used garden which includes a child-safe ride-on track, a playhouse, a quiet reading area to help those children with additional needs and canopies to both the front and rear of the building. The building is of a single-story construction, and was pre-fabricated before installation on site in 2005. We consider that the proposed cladding of the building is in keeping with that of the neighbouring village hall which is about to undergo refurbishment. The building has undergone routine maintenance including replacement of internal lighting to more energy efficient LED lighting.

Access to the site is via a level foot-bridge over the drainage ditch from the Norton Village Hall carpark . A ramp is provided into the rear door of the building, which is used as the main entry-way