

Date: 16 October 2023

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Executive Director: Martin Purbrick
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Dear Richard

LANTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL, ELY CB6 2WL– RENEWAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION FOR THE MOBILE CLASSROOM 646

I would be grateful if you could renew the planning permission for the mobile classroom at the school.

Lantern Primary School has a setting consisting of 14 classrooms and one mobile. The school has a Published Admission Number of 60 pupils per year group. There were 346 pupils on roll in June 2023. The roll is forecast to fall slightly over the next five years. All classrooms are currently in use and will be for the foreseeable future.

Ely is England's second smallest city, and the main market town in East Cambridgeshire. There are not expected to be any major housing developments that would generate a significant number of primary age children within the catchment area, although there is a significant level of housing development planning in the north of the city.

A before and after school club is run from the mobile at Lantern Primary School providing essential childcare for the community. In addition, the mobile is used for a holiday club outside of school term time providing further childcare, and for the teaching of small groups in the school day. The Local Authority has a duty to provide sufficient quality early education and childcare places to enable parents to work or to undertake education or training which can lead to employment (Childcare Act, 2006). In the 2023 Spring Budget, central government announced that all primary schools will be expected to offer wraparound care by September 2026. Therefore, the mobile is still required for the provision of childcare in line with the Council's statutory duties.

On this basis, I would be grateful if planning consent could be renewed until August 2029.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Woolner
0-19 Place Planning and Sufficiency Officer