

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014-2015

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
COMMITTEE
17 JULY 2014**

**REPORT OF: SERVICE
DIRECTOR PLANNING**

	Agenda Item No. 5
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APPLICATION NO: 13/1251 – CONVERSION OF BUILDING OF E2 OF COED –Y-LAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL TO A DOMESTIC DWELLING – BUILDING E2, COED Y LAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL, TYFICA ROAD, PONTYPRIDD.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Members are asked to consider the determination of the above planning application.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Members consider this report in respect of the planning application and determine the application having regard to the advice given.

3. BACKGROUND

This application was originally reported to the Development Control Committee on 6th February 2014 (a copy of the original report is reproduced as **APPENDIX A**). Following consideration of the report Members resolved to defer the application in order to carry out a site visit (Minute **180 (6)** refers).

A site meeting took place on 14th February 2014. At that meeting the Local Member expressed concerns regarding the development of the Coed Y Lan School site as a whole owing to the lack of on-street parking facilities in the area (Minute 3, 3.6 refers).

The application was subsequently reported back to Members at the meeting of the Development Control Committee on 6th March 2014. (**APPENDIX B**).

Following consideration Members resolved to approve the application, subject to the imposition of an additional condition requiring the applicant to provide details of parking for two cars, prior to works commencing on site (Minute 194 (1) refers).

As Members will be aware the whole of the site is now privately owned by several different individuals and is being developed on a piecemeal basis. Means of access to the site is via the private lane at the rear of the site which has always served the school.

Following consultation the applicant has confirmed that they do not own or control any other land other than the application site and do not have right of access over third party land. In order to comply with the proposed condition, the two additional parking spaces would need to be provided within the front garden of the property, adjacent to Tyfica Road. Being mindful of the topography of the site which falls considerably from the building to road level, it would be necessary for the applicant to remove part of the wall adjacent to Tyfica Road, which forms part of the listing for the site and excavate most of the proposed garden in order to provide the spaces and the necessary retaining walls. Such works would require Listed Building Consent and would also result in the loss of all the mature Horse Chestnut trees across the front of the site. Concerns are raised that such works could have a significantly detrimental impact on the character and appearance of the listed building and wider site and are unlikely to be supported by the Authority's Conservation Officer or Cadw.

The issue of parking for all the buildings on site was considered as part of the two previous applications for the development of the larger blocks.

Conditions 9 of planning permissions 12/1317 (Change of use and conversion of Block D into 22 self-contained units) and 13/0990 (Change of use and conversion of block A and B and part of block D into 17 self contained units) specify that certain parking spaces, (which are highlighted on the relevant approved site layout plans), shall be retained for use by the future occupiers of other buildings on the site, and not by residents of block A, B and D.

In light of the conditions imposed on planning permissions 12/1317 and 13/0990, it is considered that there is sufficient parking provision on site to accommodate the development proposed. Furthermore, in light of the landownership and access constraints, the topography of the site, and the listed status of the property, it is considered that the imposition of the condition requiring additional parking could be unimplementable, unreasonable and could expose the Council to costs at any subsequent planning appeal.

As such it is requested that Members remove their request for a condition to provide additional on-site parking and grant planning permission for the proposal in accordance with the conditions set out in the original report attached as **APPENDIX A**.

APPENDIX A

APPLICATION NO: 13/1251/10 (MJ)
APPLICANT: Mr A Khehra
DEVELOPMENT: The conversion of building E2 of Coed-Y-Lan Comprehensive School to a domestic dwelling.
LOCATION: **BUILDING E2, COED Y LAN COMPREHENSIVE LOWER SCHOOL, TYFICA ROAD, PONTYPRIDD, CF37 2DF**
DATE REGISTERED: 10/12/2013
ELECTORAL DIVISION: Town (Pontypridd)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve

REASONS

The proposed development is considered acceptable and in keeping with the relevant policies of the Local Development Plan and national guidance with regard to the impact on the character and appearance of the area and the setting of the listed buildings on the site. The scheme is also considered to be a positive contribution to the area by bringing this vacant, and damaged Listed building back into use, securing its future in the long term. As a result, the application is recommended for approval.

APPLICATION DETAILS

Full Planning Permission is sought for the conversion of block E2 on the site of the Former Coed y Lan Lower Comprehensive School at Tyfica Road, Pontypridd for residential use to accommodate one, three bedroom dwelling.

The conversion will utilise the existing layout on the ground floor with a new mezzanine floor to provide a bathroom above the kitchen. The existing open plan area on the first floor will be subdivided to accommodate the proposed bedrooms.

The application is also for the replacement of the roof tiles with natural welsh slate and the replacement (or refurbishment where possible) of the windows in all elevations of the building with softwood box sash windows.

No off-street car parking is proposed as part of the proposal.

The application is accompanied by the following:

- Design and Access Statement

The building is attached to another building on the Coed-y-Lan School site which is currently under a separate ownership.

SITE APPRAISAL

The site is within the settlement boundary of Pontypridd and is unallocated. The site forms a prominent feature in the landscape of Pontypridd and can be seen from a distance from the lower levels of the valley. The site is bounded to the west by the existing primary school and to the east by the vacant school buildings and the housing along Tyfica Road. Above and to the north of the school buildings site is a wooded area. Vehicular access to the site is obtained from Lanpark Road, via Tyfica Road.

The application site forms part of land that is the curtilage of the former school. The site is currently laid out in a series of plateaux of various shapes and sizes with steep rises in levels usually supported by retaining walls in between. The site rises generally to the North West. The site can be generally subdivided into two distinct areas, where the upper flat plateau comprising the old playground areas and car parking forms one; and a heavily sloping lower area which contains the existing school buildings. The areas are divided by a strong tree belt slope that forms a visual and physical barrier between the two areas. Block E2 is part of a larger building which commands a prominent position on the front of the site along Tyfica Road.

The lower parts of the site are occupied by the institutional buildings that formed the school which consists of 8 buildings of which several are listed including Block E2. The main school building is finished in local stone and has a slate roof. Large parts of the roof are missing slate/tiles and the building has suffered damage from water penetration.

The school was built in 1893-4 by Arthur O Evans, architect of Pontypridd and opened in 1896 as the County School. It was designed for both boys and girls, who had separate entrances. Additions were made to the school almost as soon as it was open, of which the present science block and gymnasium were built in 1910. It became the Intermediate School in 1911 and in 1913 the girls left for a separate school at Glyntaff (also by A O Evans). After 1945 it was the Pontypridd Boys Grammar School, until 1973 when it became a comprehensive school. The buildings have been listed as an early County school retaining considerable architectural character in a prominent position.

PLANNING HISTORY

Previous relevant planning applications that have been made on the site are as follows:

13/1129	43 Lanpark Road	Refurbishment	Under consideration
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13/0990	Blocks A and B Coed y Lan Comprehensive School, Tyfica Road, Graigwen, Pontypridd	Change of Use and conversion of Block A and Block B, and part of Block D, into 17 Self Contained Units comprising internal and external alterations, and associated works (Full PP)	Under consideration
13/0991	Blocks A and B Coed y Lan Comprehensive School, Tyfica Road, Graigwen, Pontypridd	Change of Use and conversion of Block A and Block B, and part of Block D, into 17 Self Contained Units comprising internal and external alterations, and associated works (listed building consent)	Under consideration
12/1317	Block D, Coed-Y- Lan Comprehensive School, Graigwen, Pontypridd	Change of Use and conversion of former school building into 22 Self Contained Units comprising internal and external alterations, and associated works.	Granted 05/09/13
12/1316	Block D, Coed-Y- Lan Comprehensive School, Graigwen, Pontypridd	Change of Use and conversion of former school building into 22 Self Contained Units comprising internal and external alterations, and associated works.	Granted (listed building consent) 05/09/13
10/1294	Coedylan Comprehensive Lower School, Tyfica Road, Pontypridd	Redevelopment for housing, comprising the alteration and conversion of existing listed buildings and the erection of a new building. (Listed Building Consent)	Withdrawn 29/06/12
10/1253	Coedylan Comprehensive Lower School, Tyfica Road, Pontypridd	Redevelopment for housing, comprising the alteration and conversion of existing listed buildings and the erection of a new building (reserved matters application).	Withdrawn 29/06/12
06/2157	Coedylan Comprehensive Lower School, Tyfica Road, Pontypridd	Redevelopment for housing, comprising the alteration and conversion of existing listed buildings and the erection of new building.	Approved with Conditions 09/12/10
00/2774	P.A.C.E. Building,	Roof and rainwater goods alterations.	Approved with Conditions

Coedylan,
Tyfica Road,
Pontypridd

15/12/00

94/0275	Coedylan Comprehensive (Lower School) Tyfica Road, Pontypridd	Additional car parking area.	Approved with Conditions 14/12/94
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CONSULTATIONS

Transportation Section – no objections.

Public Health & Protection Section - raise no objections subject to conditions.

Dwr Cymru/ Welsh Water – no objections subject to conditions.

Land Reclamation & Engineering Section – no objections subject to recommended drainage conditions.

PUBLICITY

The application has been advertised by direct neighbour notification, site notices and a press notice. No response has been received.

POLICY CONTEXT

The principal policies in the consideration of this application are as follows:

Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan

The application site lies within defined settlement limits and is not allocated for any specific use.

Policy CS2 – Development in the South – emphasises sustainable growth that promotes residential development with a sense of place, respects character and context, protects culture and identity.

Policy AW1 – Supply of New Housing.

Policy AW2 – states that development will only be permitted in sustainable locations.

Policy AW4 – Community infrastructure and planning obligations.

Policy AW5 – New Development – sets out criteria for new development in relation to amenity and accessibility.

Policy AW6 – requires development to involve a high quality design and to make a positive contribution to place making, including landscaping.

Policy AW7 – Protection and enhancement of the built environment – development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal will preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the site.

Policy SSA1 – Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd – Proposals that reinforce the role of Pontypridd as a principal town, respects culture and heritage, is of a high design standard, integrates positively and promotes sustainable transport modes will be permitted.

Policy SSA13 – Housing development within settlement boundaries.

Planning Policy Wales

In the determination of planning applications regard should also be given to the requirements of National Planning Policy which are not duplicated in the Local Development Plan, particularly where National Planning Policy provides a more up to date and comprehensive policy on certain topics.

The following chapters set out the Welsh Government's policy on planning issues relevant to the determination of the application:

Chapter 4 (Planning for Sustainability)

Chapter 5 (Conserving and Improving Natural Heritage and the Coast)

Chapter 6 (Conserving the Historic Environment)

Chapter 7 (Economic Development)

Chapter 8 (Transport)

Chapter 9 (Housing)

Other relevant policy guidance consulted:

PPW Technical Advice Note 2: Planning and Affordable Housing;

PPW Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning;

PPW Technical Advice Note 12: Design;

PPW Technical Advice Note 18: Transport;

PPW Technical Advice Note 22: Sustainable Buildings;

Manual for Streets

REASONS FOR REACHING THE RECOMMENDATION

The key considerations in this case are whether the proposed development will have an acceptable impact on the character and appearance of the surrounding area, the character and setting of the listed buildings on the site, residential amenity, and highway safety.

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires that, if regard is to be had to the development plan for the purposes of any determination to be made under the Planning Acts, the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Furthermore, applications that are not in accordance with relevant policies in the plan should not be allowed, unless material considerations justify the grant of planning permission.

The application for the conversion of the building is considered to be in keeping with national guidance which encourages the preservation of listed buildings. It is considered that bringing the building back into use will have a positive impact on the surrounding school site which will encourage the further redevelopment of the site as well as bringing community benefits as a key site of regeneration in the Pontypridd area offering good quality residential development. The existing buildings on the site have deteriorated rapidly in recent years and it is considered that the proposed development will be of benefit to the further development of the wider site and the prevention of further deterioration to these prominent listed buildings.

Character and Appearance of the Area

In terms of the principle of the proposed development and its impact on the character and appearance of the area, residential development has been established as an appropriate use for the site through the approval of outline consent on the 9th December 2010 (ref: 06/2157) and a more recent consent for the conversion of Block D to 22 residential units (ref: 12/1316 and 12/1317). The site is located within a predominantly residential area, therefore residential development on the site is considered to be in keeping with the character of the surrounding area.

Block E2 is considered to be an appropriate size to accommodate a three bedroom dwelling without having a detrimental impact on the character of the wider school site and surrounding area in terms of density and appearance.

The proposed conversion of block E2 is considered to represent a sympathetic and attractive layout which makes the most of the existing features of the buildings without damaging the character or setting of the listed buildings or the wider site.

In respect of the design of the conversion, the external works to the building are fairly minimal and are considered acceptable. Where windows need replacing the plans have indicated the material as softwood.

The proposal represents a positive opportunity to improve the appearance of existing buildings within the site as well as bringing the buildings back into beneficial use without having a detrimental effect on the character or appearance of the area. It is also considered that the regeneration of Block E2 has the potential to encourage the development of the remainder of the site, particularly having regard to the fact that Block D is currently being renovated.

The proposal is therefore considered to be in keeping with the character and appearance of the surrounding area in accordance with the provisions of policies AW5 and AW6 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan.

Impact on listed buildings and their setting

The proposed conversion and alterations to the building are considered acceptable in that minimal changes are proposed to the exteriors of the building. As with any residential conversion of buildings such as these, internal divisions on a large scale are to be expected. The proposed conversion of the building makes effective use of existing openings within each building with the exception of a small alteration in the side elevation.

Finishing materials proposed will match the existing traditional materials on the site and are therefore considered acceptable. Conditions are recommended below to ensure that samples are submitted to the Council for approval.

The proposed development seeks to preserve the school building on the site through its conversion. The proposal allows the building to be repaired and improved where necessary and also ensures its long-term viability. It is also considered that given that the site is now privately owned by several different individuals, and is therefore being developed piecemeal, the current proposal represents a positive step towards enabling the redevelopment of the wider site. It is considered that the general character of the site will be preserved and enhanced as a result of the proposal. This will ensure that the layout of the educational buildings on the site can be preserved and the architectural history of the site can be understood in the future.

It is considered that the proposed development will preserve and enhance the existing character and appearance of the site and is acceptable in accordance with policy AW7 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan.

Residential Amenity

In terms of the impact of the proposed development on the residential amenity of nearby properties, it is considered that due to the enclosed nature and steep topography of the site, the impact will be kept to a minimum.

No alterations are proposed to the footprint of the building that would significantly increase its impact in terms of scale. It is therefore considered that the scale of the proposed development will not have a detrimental impact on the levels of amenity currently enjoyed by surrounding residential properties. The distances between the building and existing properties along Tyfica Road far exceed 21m which is considered to be sufficient distance to ensure that overlooking is not to such a degree that is harmful to the amenity of neighbouring residential properties.

It is not considered that the location of the building to be converted in close proximity to the existing primary school will lead to any issues of conflict between the uses due to the daytime use of the school.

The proposed development is therefore considered to be in keeping with the provisions of policies AW5 and AW6 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan in terms of the effect on residential amenity.

Highway Safety

TAN 18 Transportation in advising on accessible housing development promotes housing development at locations with good access to physical and social infrastructure including public transport, that development should achieve higher densities in places with good public transport, accessibility and capacity. Given the location of the application site and the fact that it is to be redeveloped it would satisfy these key transportation policy objectives even though the proposed development does not have any off-street parking facilities of its own.

In respect of the impact of the proposal on the highway network, it is considered that the development will have an acceptable impact on highway safety. It is noted that the site was previously used as a school and it is considered that at peak times the impact on the highway network is likely to have been worse in respect of congestion than what is likely to be the result of this application for a single dwelling. It is therefore considered that the application is acceptable in this respect and it is not considered that the impact of the application on the highway is so detrimental to highway safety that it would warrant a refusal of the application.

It is acknowledged that there could be a shortfall in the future of off-street parking that could be provided for the remainder of the Coed y Lan School site (excluding Blocks E2, A, B and D) due to the fact that the site has been sold off in a piecemeal manner. However, any future applications will be assessed on their own merits and the level of parking considered depending on what is being proposed. The applications for blocks A, B and D do provide some excess off-street parking spaces which could be made available for the development of block E2.

The proposal is, on balance, therefore considered to be in keeping with policy AW2 and AW5 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan in that it is not considered that the development will have a detrimental effect on highway safety and the site is situated within a sustainable location.

Conclusion

In summary, and notwithstanding the objections that have been received, the proposed development is considered acceptable and in keeping with the relevant policies of the Local Development Plan and national guidance. As a result, the application is recommended for approval subject to the following conditions.

RECOMMENDATION: Grant

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of five years from the date of this permission.

Reason: To comply with Sections 91 and 93 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2. Construction works on the development shall not take place other than during the following times:

- i) Monday to Friday 0800 to 1800 hours;
- ii) Saturday 0800 to 1300 hours;
- iii) Not at any time on Sundays, Bank or Public holidays, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that the noise emitted from this development is not a source of nuisance to occupants of nearby residential properties in accordance with policy AW5 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan.

3. Building operations shall not be commenced until samples of the materials proposed to be used have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and all materials used shall conform to the sample(s) so approved.

Reason: To ensure that the external appearance of the proposed development will be in keeping with the character of the area and adjoining buildings in the interests of visual amenity in accordance with policies AW5 and AW6 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan.

4. No development shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority a plan indicating the positions, design, materials and type of boundary treatment to be erected. The boundary treatment shall be completed before the building is occupied. Development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that the new development will in keeping with the surrounding area and to protect residential amenity in accordance with policies AW5 and AW6 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan.

5. No development shall take place until drainage arrangements have been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure adequate disposal of found and surface water drainage in accordance with policy AW10 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan.

6. No dwelling shall be occupied until the drainage works have been completed in accordance with the approved plans.

Reason: To ensure adequate disposal of foul and surface water drainage in accordance with Policy AW10 of the Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Development Plan.

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013-2014

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL
COMMITTEE**

6 MARCH 2014

**REPORT OF THE
DIRECTOR LEGAL AND
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

Agenda Item No.4(ii)
<p>SITE MEETING</p> <p>(i) APPLICATION NO.13/1251 – THE CONVERSION OF BUILDING E2 OF COED Y LAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL TO A DOMESTIC DWELLING – BUILDIGN E2, COED Y LAN COMPREHENSIVE LOWER SCHOOL, TYFICA ROAD, PONTYPRIDD</p> <p>(ii) APPLICATION NO.13/1252 – THE CONVERSION OF BUILDING E2 OF COED Y LAN COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL TO A DOMESTIC DWELLING – BUILDING E2, COED Y LAN COMPREHENSIVE LOWER SCHOOL, TYFICA ROAD, PONTYPRIDD</p>

Author: Mrs.Z.Maisey, Principal Officer, Committee Services

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To consider the outcome of the site inspection in respect of the above-mentioned proposals and to determine the applications, as outlined in the report of the Service Director, Planning, attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 respectively.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To approve both applications in accordance with the recommendations of the Service Director, Planning.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 In accordance with Minute No.180(6) (Development Control Committee, 6 February 2014) a site inspection was undertaken on Friday, 14 February 2014 to consider planning and highways issues regarding the proposed development.

- 3.2 The meeting was attended by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Development Control Committee (County Borough Councillor R.B. McDonald and D.Weeks respectively) and County Borough Councillor E.Webster in consultation with the Local Member for Pontypridd (County Borough Councillor S.Carter).
- 3.3 Members inspected the application site and were informed that full planning permission and Listed Building Consent were being sought for the conversion of Block E2 on the former Coed y Lan Lower Comprehensive School site for residential use to accommodate one, three bedroom dwelling. No off-street parking was proposed as part of the proposal.
- 3.4 The Development Control Officer stated that the application for the conversion of the building was considered to be in keeping with national guidance which encourages the preservation of listed buildings and bringing the building back into use would have a positive impact. In terms of the impact on the residential amenity of nearby properties, it was considered, due to the enclosed nature and steep topography of the site, that the impact would be kept to a minimum. No alterations were proposed to the footprint of the building that would significantly increase its impact in terms of scale.
- 3.5 The Development Control Officer acknowledged that there could be a shortfall in future off-street parking that could be provided for the remainder of the Coed y Lan site due to the fact that the site had been sold off in a piecemeal manner but pointed out that any future applications would be assessed on their own merits and the level of parking considered depending on what was being proposed.
- 3.6 The Transportation Officer confirmed no objection as it was considered that the proposed development would have no significant adverse impact on highway safety. Also, the site was situated within a sustainable location within walking distance of local amenities and public transport and, on balance, was acceptable.
- 3.6 The Local Member expressed major concerns regarding the development of the Coed y Lan School site as a whole owing to the lack of on-street parking facilities in the area but noted that any future application would be assessed on their own merits.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

as amended by

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

17 JULY 2014

REPORT OF: SERVICE DIRECTOR PLANNING

REPORT

**APPLICATION N0: 13/1251 –
CONVERSION OF BUILDING OF
E2 OF COED –Y-LAN
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL TO A
DOMESTIC DWELLING –
BUILDING E2, COED Y LAN
COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL,
TYFICA ROAD, PONTYPRIDD.**

OFFICER TO CONTACT

**MRS H HINTON
(Tel. No. 01443 494889)**

See Relevant Application File