

Green Infrastructure Statement:

Cwm Brombil School Primary Hub

Site Address: Bertha Road, Port Talbot, Margam SA13 2AN

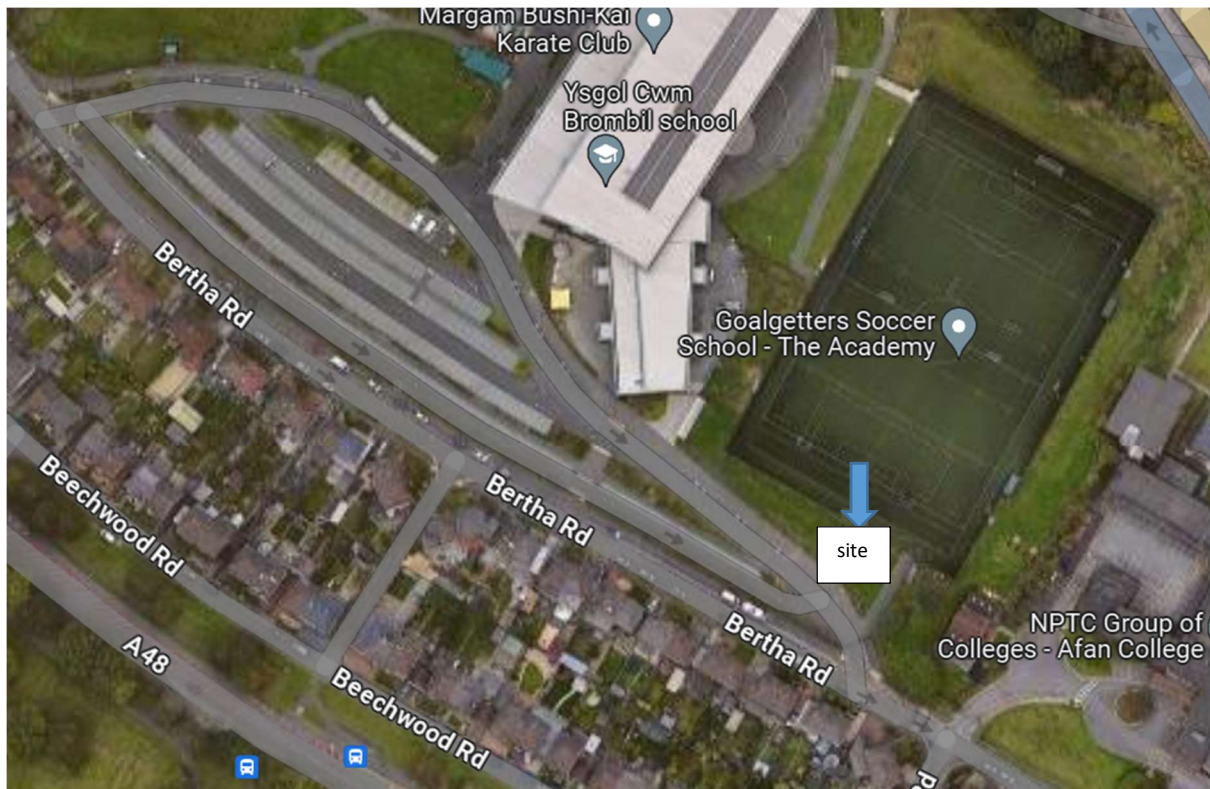
Proposed Development: Construction of a new Community Hub comprising of classroom area, meeting rooms, food bank and snack bar, it is predominantly single storey with a stairs and lift to a viewing platform adjacent to the school 3G pitch.

Site description: Ysgol Cwm Brombil School is a new school and was built and opened in September 2018, the grass bank supporting the 3G pitch was part of this development and the location of the new Hub is located on this bank.

The proposed area was selected as it is close to the school and also accessible to the local community which the school identifies with and works closely, the food Bank for instance is run from within the school.

There is a grassed area adjacent with a number of mature trees which are not affected, the Hub was deliberately moved to the new support bank to ensure no affects to this area and the trees.

In front of the development is the vehicular circulation and drop off zones and parking for the school, beyond that in Bertha Road are residential properties.



Surrounding Area description:

The application site is located on the grass banking to the 3G pitch used by the school as their principle external sports area, the grass bank extends to the school buildings to the left of the proposed new building.

The site is faced by the internal road system servicing the school this includes bus drop off zone and parking, to the rear is the 3G pitch which then is bordered by the M4 motorway.

To the right hand side of the proposed development is a path up to the pitch with a wooded and grassed area bounded by Afan campus buildings of NPTC College.

(See plan / Aerial image in previous section for clarity)

Development Impacts:

We have deliberately located the proposed development to be as non-intrusive as possible, by moving it to the grass support bank avoiding the more ecologically developed area between the existing path to the pitch and the adjacent College property.

The new building will require the relocation of one of the trees planted as part of the construction of the school and playing fields and we as well as relocating the tree we will plant a further two new trees of a similar size.

The new building will include new bird/bat boxes to the side elevations to provide some connectivity with the surrounding area also there is already an existing external lighting lamppost located adjacent to the building, we would look to move it approximately 2m towards the entrance area to light that area, lighting externally other than that would be some lighting to the underside of the viewing platform by the pitch.

As we are removing a section of the grass on the bank we would look as a replacement to develop an equivalent sized area of amenity grassland for wildflowers (putting it into a cut and collect regime).

Overall the impact beyond the limited localised issues within the existing area are compensated for with the proposed additional elements to be introduced.

Biodiversity Enhancements Proposed

As identified previously it is proposed to replant the tree affected by the proposed development, is also intended to plant additional trees in mitigating the tree repositioning.

We are also including 2 new bird/bat boxes to increase and create connectivity with the existing environment on the side elevations, one to the existing mature trees area between the new building and the adjacent college building and one to the open side.

This would create additional connectivity, and nesting habitats (taking into account impacts and surrounding features) for the area.

Conclusion.

It is considered that subject to the above, that the proposed development would maintain and / or enhance biodiversity, build resilient ecological networks and deliver net benefits for biodiversity by the measures identified.

Thus ensuring that any adverse environmental effects are minimized and mitigated, compensated for where required.

Signed

Dated