

Design and access statement V2



Background and context of the Application

1. The Community of Hungerford Theatre Company (CHTC) includes five groups of performers, directors and stage crews with an age range of from 6 to 60 years. The not-for-profit Company aims are to foster and develop interest and participation in live theatre in the community of Hungerford and the surrounding area. Membership now exceeds 200 local people most of whom participate actively either on stage or behind the scenes in the five or more live shows produced each year.
2. The Company performs in local Hungerford venues and owns no property. The assets of the company consist of costumes, staging, lighting, sound and electronic equipment, and four storage units with a total estimated insurance value of £25k.
3. **The Storage units: design**
4. The assets are stored in the 4 storage units, clad in feather-edge weather boarding, which are ex site-offices and are currently located at College Farm in Upper Denford, by permission of the landlord, Mr David Liddiard, who has now sold the property.
5. **Permissions and notices**
6. The new current owner has given notice that the units must be removed by 1 April 2015
7. The company has also been served an enforcement notice of planning application 10/02176 by WBC advising that the units must be removed from the site, and correspondence and discussions with the WBC Enforcement Officer, Mr Beech, has outlined the steps taken to find a new site for the units.
8. Hungerford Town Council, currently in the process of purchasing the Triangle Field from WBC, has indicated that they would support siting the units on the Triangle Field once the necessary planning permission has been obtained, see item 9 of the HTC minutes of the meeting of 1 December 2014.
9. **Access**
10. The units, shown in the attached plans, reference CHTC 0115/1-5 will be sited on a hard standing of crushed concrete and scalplings.
11. Access to the site from Priory Road is through a double swing gate, then through the parking area to the site.
12. Access to the site is usually required in the few weeks prior to any of the 5 or more shows promoted, when scenery and costumes are prepared and adjustments made to electrical and electronic equipment. There is minimal traffic during these periods and next to none during the interim periods.
13. **Statement of community involvement**
14. Relevant town council minutes at which this proposal has been discussed are publicly available, and attached. There are approximately 150 members of the Hungerford Community at any one time
15. **Change of use**
16. While the purpose of the units is to support the recreational activities of the theatre company, it is recognised that live Theatre is technically a leisure activity rather than a sport. However the site proposed is in an area of the playing field unsuitable for sporting activity, and obscured from public view. Siting in this location makes good community use of an area of otherwise redundant land, and is accepted as such by other users of the Triangle field. This is seen to make good community use of an otherwise redundant part of the playing field, unsuitable for sporting use.