

## **New St Augustine's Primary School, Hythe**

A report by Head of Planning Applications Unit to Planning Applications Sub-Committee on 15 February 2005.

Summary: Report on the recently completed new St Augustine's School, Hythe

Recommendation: For Members' Information.

**Local Member: Mr J Palmer**

1. Members will recall a planning application for the replacement new school in the village of Saltwood reported to the Committee in October 2002. The new primary school is situated on the area of land that had previously been Brockhill Primary School and was a three storey 1960's concrete framed building.
2. The application, submitted under reference SH/02/442 on behalf of the Trustees of the Diocese of Southwark and the Education and Libraries Committee, proposed the relocation of St Augustine's RC Primary School to provide 7 classrooms, hard-play areas, playing fields, vehicular and pedestrian access and security fencing in an area situated within the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
3. The new school completed last year, ready for September 2004, was designed by Guy Hollaway (Cheney Thorpe and Morrison Architects) and incorporates the following:
  - single storey and designed with a curved sweeping roof to follow the rising contours of the site and to minimise any visual impact on the surrounding area;
  - specific consideration to the existing site conditions, topography and exposed location and long views;
  - single storey to minimise impact on the area with curved sweeping roof following the rising contours of the site and gabion southern wall which curves in front of the building to soften the building's elevations;
  - elevations primarily timber cedar boarding with profiled metal curved roofs;
  - the site's coastal location influencing the choice of materials, stone filled gabion baskets and timber facings for the facades; and
  - porthole windows, sun louvres and a large area of glazing.
4. In recognition of such an innovative design, heavily influenced by its coastal setting, the school has won the 2004 Kent Design Award in the Public Buildings Category (November 2004), as well as the coveted overall Award for all categories in the 2004 Competition.

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5. This award recognises that this project has embraced the importance of good design of public buildings in Kent, many of which are the subject of applications decided by this Committee.
6. For Members' INFORMATION.

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Background Documents: See Section Heading
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