

## S77 Disposal of School Playing Fields; Former Dersingham Infant School – Saxon Way site

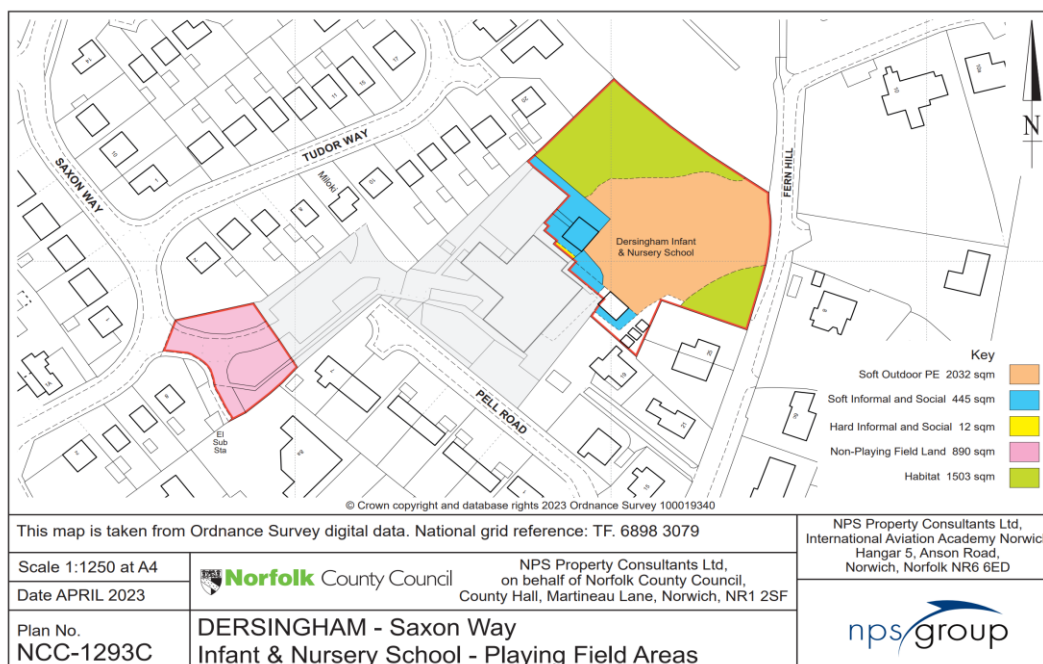
Norfolk County Council wishes to dispose of the school playing fields at the former Dersingham Infant & Nursery School, Saxon Way, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6LY.

The Infant & Nursery School formally closed in 2013 when the school merged with Dersingham Junior School to form Dersingham VA Primary and Nursery School. The Saxon Way site was used as a satellite site, until the Governors of Dersingham Primary School closed the site from 31 December 2022. This was due to the school now having fewer pupils, which means that they can all be accommodated on one site (old Junior School site) making the satellite site at Saxon's Way surplus to requirements.

To dispose of these playing fields, it will be necessary for Norfolk County Council to apply for written consent from the Secretary of State for Education, under the provisions of Section 77 of the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998. It is only at that point the Council will be able to dispose/change use of the land.

The former school site has an overall area of some 0.90 hectares of which approx. 0.42 hectares is classed as playing field land. Playing field land is defined in the School Standards and Frameworks Act 1998 and this is categorised into five types, four of which have been identified on this site and seen in the below plan as being;

- Soft outdoor PE (orange)
- Soft informal and social (blue)
- Hard informal and social (yellow)
- Habitat (green)



## **What has happened since the closure of the school**

Norfolk County Council's policy for the re-use of its school estate first involves establishing whether there is any educational need which can be met through use or adaptation of the premises. Where this is not identified as a requirement, the next stage is to consider any non-education use initially at Departmental level and following that across the County Council before approaching the wider public sector e.g. NHS, Police, for potential use.

Following a review of the potential reuse of the site, no such options for alternative use of the school have been identified.

## **Our Proposal**

Norfolk County Council, with Diocese of Norwich, who own the school building, are anticipating that the whole site, including the playing fields, will be disposed of for some form of residential development, although there are no identified proposals for the site at present.

Any residential development proposal would be subject to a full planning submission to the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, which would involve consultation with the public.

It should be reiterated that this current consultation covers **only the playing field** elements of the site and that there is a separate process to dispose of the school buildings with the Secretary of State, which is not part of this consultation.

## **How can I have my say**

We would like to hear your views on our disposal proposals. The closing date is 20 October 2023. You can have your say by;

- completing the online questionnaire via this link;  
<https://norfolk.citizenspace.com/childrens-services/dersingham-s77>
- Sending an email to; [schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:schoolreview@norfolk.gov.uk)
- Writing to: School Organisation Team, FREEPOST 1H 2076, Children's Services, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2BR. You don't need a stamp.

## **What happens next**

We will collate all responses received in response to this consultation.

If we need any further information from you, we will contact you via your email address.

Following the consultation process, all comments will be forwarded along with the application under s77 of the School Standards and Frameworks Act to the Secretary of State for Education, who will consider these and will make a decision on the proposal to dispose of the playing fields at the former Dersingham Infant & Nursery School, Saxon Way, Dersingham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE31 6LY.