Wirral MBC Planning Department
Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
Wirral
CH44 8ED

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority
Community Fire Protection
Fire Engineering Team
Service Headquarters
Bridle Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L30 4YD

Telephone: 0151 296 6590 (Calls may be recorded)
Inspecting Officer: Alison Harrison
Email: fireengineeringteam@merseyfire.gov.uk
web Site: **www.merseyfire.gov.uk**

Your ref: OUT/23/00478 Our ref: 00811011/1023705/AH/LC Date: 24th May 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING APPLICATION NUMBER REF: OUT/23/00478
PROPOSAL: The demolition of the existing pavilion and erection of up to 33 dwellings and associated infrastructure. All matters are reserved except for access.
ADDRESS: Birkenhead School Sports Ground Noctorum Road Noctorum Prenton Wirral CH43 9UQ

The Fire Authority requests that any decision notice includes the following information;

The plans relating to the above application have been examined and below are the Fire Authority's observations:

* Access for fire appliances should comply with the requirements of Section B5, Schedule 1 of the Building Regulations. Provisions for access will depend on the size and use of the building. The design of the access route, for example minimum road widths and maximum reversing distances, should also be considered (Appendix A, attached).

* In accordance with Section 55 of the County of Merseyside Act 1980, the position of the premises should not compromise or impede existing means of fire service access to a neighbouring building.

* Water supplies for firefighting purposes (Appendix B) should be risk assessed in accordance with the undermentioned guidance in liaison with the water undertakers (United Utilities - 0161 907 7351) with suitable and sufficient fire hydrants supplied.

* **Housing**

Housing developments with units of detached or semidetached houses of not more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of eight litres per second through any single hydrant. Multi occupied housing developments with units of more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 20 to 35 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development.

Further information regarding access requirements can be found in the current version of Approved Document B, which is available for free download via:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fire-safety-approved-document-b

Should you require any further information in respect of this correspondence please contact the Officer named above

Yours faithfully

Alison Harrison

Authorised Fire Safety Inspecting Officer
And on behalf of Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority

Appendix A - Access and Facilities for the Fire Service as given in Section B5 of Approved Document B

Domestic Dwellings

For dwelling houses, access for a pumping appliance should be provided to within 45m of all points inside the dwelling house.

For flats, either: access for a pumping appliance should be provided to within 45m of all points inside each flat of a block, measured along the route of the hose; or fire mains should be provided.

Commercial Buildings

Small buildings (up to 2000m^2, with a top occupied storey a maximum of 11m above ground level), require access for a pump appliance to 15% of the perimeter, or within 45m of every point of the footprint of the building, whichever is the less onerous.

Larger buildings will require access to a percentage of the perimeter that increases incrementally with size of the total floor area and height of building – please see details in Approved Document B Volume 2 Section 15.

Elevations to which vehicle access is provided will require a door, to give access into the building. The maximum distance between doors, or between a door and the end of the elevation, is 60m (ie a 150m elevation would need a minimum of two doors).

All Buildings

Access routes and hardstanding should comply with Table 13.1 ADB Volume 1 / Table 15.2 ADB Volume 2. Please note: MFRS appliances are 17 tonnes (pump) and 26 tonnes (high reach).

Dead-end access routes longer than 20m require turning facilities (eg a turning circle or hammer head, or other turning point).

Where fire mains are fitted, access should be provided for a pumping appliance to within 18m of each fire main inlet connection point. Inlets should be on the face of the building and visible from the parking position of the appliance. The run of horizontal internal connecting pipe should be a maximum of 18m in length.

Buildings with a storey more than 18m above the fire service vehicle access level, or a basement more than 10m below, should have one or more firefighting shafts containing fire-fighting lifts and fire mains (a minimum of two fire-fighting shafts will be required for buildings with a floor area of 900 m^2 or more).

Buildings in the ‘shop and commercial’, ‘assembly and recreation’ or ‘industrial’ purpose groups (Groups 4, 5, or 6), with a storey area of 900m$^+$ or more and a storey height of 7.5m or more above fire service vehicle access level will require at least two firefighting shafts (firefighting lifts may not be needed).

Entry to a firefighting shaft at fire service access level should be available either directly from the open air or by way of a protected corridor not exceeding 18m in length. The corridor is deemed to be part of the firefighting shaft, and any access to it from the accommodation should be by way of protected lobbies.

Hydrants

Where a building has a compartment with an area of more than 280m^2 and is being erected more than 100m from an existing fire hydrant, additional hydrants are required as follows:

Buildings with fire main – hydrant within 90m of dry fire main inlet;

Buildings without fire main – hydrant within 90m of an entrance to the building; and a maximum of 90m apart.

Appendix B - Guidelines on flow requirements for firefighting

The following flows represent the ideal requirements on new developments and during permanent system changes.

Housing

Housing developments with units of detached or semidetached houses of not more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of eight litres per second through any single hydrant. Multi occupied housing developments with units of more than two floors should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 20 to 35 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development.

Transportation

Lorry/coach parks - multi-storey car parks - service stations.

All of these amenities should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum of 25 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 90 metres from the complex.

Industry

The water supply infrastructure to any industrial estate should be as follows with the mains network on site being normally at least 150 mm nominal diameter—

Up to one hectare 20 litres per second.

One to two hectares 35 litres per second.

Two to three hectares 50 litres per second.

Over three hectares 75 litres per second.

Shopping, offices, recreation and tourism

Commercial developments of this type should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum flow of 20 to 75 litres per second to the development site.

Education, health and community facilities

Village halls— Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum flow of 15 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 100 metres from the complex.

Primary schools and single storey health centre's— Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum flow of 20 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 70 metres from the complex.

Secondary schools, colleges, large health and community facilities— Should have a water supply capable of delivering a minimum flow of 35 litres per second through any single hydrant on the development or within a vehicular distance of 70 metres from the complex.