

Eastergate Primary School Biomass Boiler – Design and Access Statement

This document is submitted in support of an application for planning permission on behalf of Eastergate Church of England Primary School, ('the Applicant'), henceforward referred to in this document as "the school".

The development constitutes the construction of a 14.79m² timber-clad steel shipping container, containing an 80kW biomass boiler at the north west corner of the school car park. The school grounds are located on Church Lane in the south west corner of the village of Eastergate. The village of Eastergate sits within open countryside north of Bognor Regis and east of Chichester in West Sussex.

The school has been asked to consider the following issues in accordance with West Sussex County Council's Local List for the Validation of Planning Applications (2009):

Section 1 – Air Quality

There will not be a significant impact on the air quality of the surrounding area. This is confirmed by the attached air quality test report data and the MSC accreditation of the installer. Moreover, the biomass boiler is fitted with a cyclone that significantly reduces the odour, dust and bio-aerosol content of the flue emissions.

Section 11 – Landscape and Visual Impact and Section 23 – Woodland and Arboriculture

The semi-permanent nature of the container, its relative size and principle function constitute no foreseeable risk to the area's character, flora and fauna. Moreover, the materials (timber cladding) used will be in keeping with the school's current facilities and buildings as well as the village. The nearest trees are roughly 5m east of the container. No trees will be directly affected by the development.

Section 12 – Lighting

There will be no external lighting attached to the development.

Section 14 – Noise

The biomass boiler is relatively quiet when in operation. Its setting within a steel shipping container will render any sound emitted near-silent when compared to those sounds already audible in the school grounds and the surrounding village. The boiler will only be in operation during school hours and never at night.

Section 15 – Parking and Access

The boiler will sit on two existing car parking spaces so as to ensure easy access to delivery vehicles supplying wood pellets to the site. The impact of the number of deliveries (3-5 annually) will be relatively low in a rural area where heavy agricultural machinery is common place.

The car parking spaces will not be replaced within the grounds of the school. There is ample room for parking on the road outside the school, within the village of Eastergate where teachers, parents and visitors to the school have been parking for years.

The Schools Reasoning for Installing Biomass Boiler

There are a number of factors that have motivated the school to plan and propose the above development. The biomass boiler will reduce the school's carbon footprint, as well as providing a

new source of income from the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI). Furthermore, generating their own renewable heat will reduce the school's heating bills. The school also intends to utilise the boiler as an educational tool to teach pupils the principles and drivers behind renewable energy, namely the technologies' role in mitigating the effects of and adapting to climate change.