

Comment

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Please states in the box below the Planning Policy or Site reference you are commenting on.	Education

Please make your comments on this Planning Policy or Site in the box below:

Dear Sir/MadamAs chairman of the Faringdon Pre-School Management Committee I am writing at Adrian's suggestion because the pre-school needs a new building and site - yet it has been totally omitted from both the local plan and also the town neighbourhood plan. The pre-school is based on OCC land for which we pay a token rent. However we own our own building - and fund-raised for it for what seemed like an eternity yet after 13 years it is showing its age. We hope that it will last for another 5 years, but we are very keen not to have another terrapin. In the summer it is very hot but in the winter it is often very cold - and the heating bills are huge. The pre-school is run as a not-for-profit charity with the fees covering the staff salaries and utilities. We are in the black but we are careful with our finances, fund-raising for new equipment wherever possible. However many of the children come from financially weak families, so there is a limit to how much we can do. There are 40 children on the roll with 32 being funded by county/government; there are also 6 pupil-premium children out of this number so you will understand that the pre-school is a valued public/social asset. We have close links with the infant school, and at our last Ofsted two and a half years ago we received a good grade. The pre-school is full and we are about to start a waiting list as there is already a very healthy number starting in September. We have an excellent manager (grade 6) in the pre-school, two deputies (level 3) and 2 apprentices as well as an administrator and a cleaner. We have close links with the health centre and where necessary, Social Services, as well as grant making trusts within the town. We are a valued part of the social fabric of the town. The infant school pre-school takes children from the age

of 3 - we take them from two years old so enabling parents to return to work as desired by government. Our fees are considerably lower than other nurseries in the town. I would be grateful if you could feed all this into part 2 of the Vale's Local Plan.