

Thursday, 11 November 2021

Application Number: P/21/084/FUL

Notes on Accessibility

My previously submitted Design & Access Statement states:

- Due to the topography of the site it would not be easily accessible by wheelchairs or people with restricted mobility. However I am able to deliver yoga sessions at other locations which would be helpful. Other accessibility issues could be addressed on an individual basis depending on requirements.

Additional notes 12/11/21

The comments and concerns raised by Anita Bedford in a Member Call-in on 11/10/21 have been noted. I have given these some thought and would like to offer the following responses:

Thank you for the positive comments made in support of the application.

Lack of impaired mobility access

Regarding the lack of “any impaired mobility access to the studio in the proposed plans,” this is not intended to discriminate against anyone with impaired mobility. It is a limitation of the site that it will not be easily accessible. However, although I am able to teach yoga to people with varying states of mobility, the nature of the majority of my classes do require a degree of agility. It is our feeling that a person unable to manage steps would get little benefit of attending one of my regular yoga classes. My feeling is it would be far better to offer a bespoke service (already available as 1:1 or small groups by arrangement) if someone wishes to access yoga working with a more limited range of motion, balance etc and to address this individually. I am more than happy to offer this and could discuss with any client how they may be able to access the space, or whether I could come to them or arrange an alternative. The concern raised has made me think that I should highlight this option to make it more readily available, so I will look at this when we upgrade our Adventure Scilly website for the 2022 season.

It has been suggested by Lisa Walton that perhaps the yoga studio could be accessed, if absolutely necessary, via the front path to The Biggal/Mincarolo & through the garden for any individual, or in the event tides may cause a hazard along the prom. This is certainly an option; the reason I don't propose to use this as the main access is primarily to protect the privacy of residential dwellings of

Beachaven (David & Jean Duncan) and The Biggal (Barbara Duncan). These houses already have some impact on their privacy from people coming to and from the guest house, therefore I feel it would be sensible to provide a separate access to the yoga studio via the prom and that this would be less impactful on everyone. There would also be some impact on Mincarolo guests if there were people coming to and from the studio on a regular basis so creating a separate, more direct access makes sense on a lot of levels.

To sum up, in an ideal world I would have a fully accessible building, however I still believe it is an excellent site for the facility and that it would be a fantastic addition to wellbeing spaces and activities on the islands. The yoga space would be a wonderful way of sharing this beautiful spot with many people for years to come, and in terms of accessibility the venue would remain only one aspect of my role as a yoga teacher, and I would be able to carry my experience and skills to other venues when needed.

Steps to the Studio

A valid query was raised over the design of the steps and something we're aware needs closer attention. We would love the steps to echo the style of the granite steps leading up to Mincarolo however this would be potentially tricky to achieve and would not really address the issue of accessibility. The photo-image projection of the access/steps does indeed appear large and visually obtrusive and as such the detailed design of the steps is being addressed within the planning pre-commencement conditions. We propose to use natural materials of granite and wood where possible but will seek guidance on recommended materials and will ensure that planning are happy with the design before any work to this goes ahead. It would be a shame for a beautiful building to be detracted from by unsightly steps, and it's very important that these don't impact upon access along the prom to the Lifeboat Station so we will be in close contact with planning to ensure this.

Fire Appliance access

This is being addressed. I was unaware of the process of applying for Building Control but am now in contact with Cornwall Council regarding this, and I have spoken with the fire department so this is something that will be consulted upon and addressed before any works take place.