

KINGS SCHOOL, GLOUCESTER – NEW SPORTS HALL

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E G Carter & Co. Ltd has started the construction of a new Sports Hall for Kings School, Gloucester.

The new £ 2.0 m sports facility, designed by Gloucester based Roberts Limbrick Architects, is located on the edge of a reclaimed, former landfill site forming the school's playing fields at Archdeacon Meadows. First conceived in 2002 by the then Headmaster Peter Lacey, the project has had to overcome many hurdles during the process of procurement. Planning issues including adjacency to the flood plain, contamination and a sensitive landscape setting, had to be overcome and when construction had been due to commence in 2007, the onset of the current recession further delayed the start.

The 4-court hall provides facilities for a full range of indoor sports, with special emphasis on fulfilling the demands of curriculum PE. The school has never enjoyed purpose build facilities and has had to either hire external facilities or use accommodation not designed for sport. The new facilities will therefore provide pupils with the opportunity to enjoy and participate in sport in a way not previously possible and will greatly enhance the school sports facilities..

Located adjacent to the private 'Riverside' Health and Fitness Club, the hall will also link with the existing club facilities to allow evening and weekend use by club members under a dual use agreement with the school providing a sustainable solution for the school.

Apart from PE, provision for other sports includes Badminton, Basketball, Circuit training, Cricket practice, Five a side Football, Indoor Hockey, Netball, Tennis, as well as for junior versions of the games such as mini tennis and mini basketball played on the badminton courts.

Flexibility of the spaces is key and the 1,200 m² facility is also capable of allowing for occasional use of the facilities for non sporting events such as exams and school events. Associated ancillary facilities include group changing rooms, first aid/office and storage for equipment for both the school and the leisure club. An enclosed link corridor provides convenient access between the two facilities.

The site has good pedestrian and vehicular links with the main school site and additional drop off, parking and cycle parking compliment on the existing car parking facilities at Riverside.

The steel framed building is set at the level of the existing Leisure Club which remained unaffected by floods experienced in the area during the summer of 2007. Supported by piled foundations, the building is finished in materials selected for their quality and longevity it's landscape setting including aluminium standing seam roofing, 'Thermowood' timber cladding and red facing brickwork plinth. Translucent Kalwall panels providing controlled natural lighting to the Sports Hall.

The new hall directly faces the playing fields and responds to the dominant enclosure to the pitches by existing Lombardy Poplar trees and the form of the adjacent railway embankment and a large gently curving roof encloses the simple rectangular form to provide a strong, unified approach. It has been designed to take into account views, not only from the road, but also from

the rail approach to Gloucester Station. A gently sloping path leads directly to the main entrance from the approach.

The surrounding area is sensitively landscaped using high quality materials and planting to enhance the landscape conservation area and carefully chosen lighting provides good security.

The facilities are designed to incorporate the very latest standards and sustainability has been particularly high on the list of priorities. The building incorporates a number of sustainable features including reuse of rainwater for pitch irrigation and natural ventilation and efficient lighting to the sports hall. Under-floor heating provides ideal comfort within the sports hall and changing areas.

Other consultants appointed include Magna Chartered Surveyors (Project Manager/Employers Agent), HWM Building Services, Team 4 Consulting (Structural and Engineering) and Infrastructure Design Studio (Civil Engineering)

The facility is programmed to open in August 2012.

