



Redevelopment plans at Town Close House Preparatory School, Norwich. From left to right: View facing car park; View facing playing field; View of main entrance facing playground. All images to be credited to LSI Architects. Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988: Reproduction is permitted providing authorship is credited.

## News Release

For immediate release, 1st March 2008

### **LSI Architects Secures Planning Approval for building development at Town Close House Preparatory School, Norwich**

Norwich and London-based LSI Architects has announced that planning permission has been granted for a new build project at Town Close House Preparatory School, Norwich. Town Close House is a co-educational school for 500 pupils aged 3 to 13 years. It is situated between the Ipswich and Newmarket Roads in attractively wooded grounds close to the city centre. The plans are for a new multipurpose sports hall with integrated changing and office facilities, to be followed by the conversion of existing buildings to create a new performing arts centre. At some future date, the strategic plan for the site also includes the provision of a new dining hall.

The scheme provides for up to 2000m<sup>2</sup> of new buildings, with the first phase involving the demolition of the timber clad Little Theatre, formerly a gymnasium, and the construction of a new sports hall, changing rooms and viewing gallery, along with rationalisation of maintenance stores and workshops. The new buildings have been designed to complement the existing listed buildings and to conserve the trees and landscape amenity of the site. During the forthcoming building phase, management of construction access will be a key priority in order to protect the health and safety of the school community and the general public.

The second phase of the building will include the remodelling and refurbishment of the existing sports hall to create a new drama and performing arts facility. The proposals involve re-roofing the existing building to achieve modern environmental performance standards, and the creation of a new entrance foyer from the central playground, offering full accessibility.

The long term plans for phase three involve the demolition of some existing buildings which are towards the end of their economic life and the construction of a new dining room, music teaching rooms and offices.

David Andrews, a Principal Member of LSI Architects, commented: "The phasing of the development has been carefully considered to ensure that the school remains fully operational throughout the duration of the construction works. The design has been formulated to achieve appropriate scale, massing, architectural expression and palette of materials. It has maximised the utilisation of daylight and natural ventilation and incorporates sustainable design and energy strategies."

Work is planned to commence on site during the summer of 2008 and will take approximately 18 months to complete.

**The Project Team:**

Client: Town Close House Preparatory School, Norwich  
Architect and Lead Consultant: LSI Architects  
Quantity Surveyor: Northcroft  
Civil & Structural Engineer: Clancy Consulting  
Services Engineer: Mott Macdonald  
CDM Coordinator: PFB Construction

Other recent educational projects designed by LSI Architects include the completion of the futuristic 'Classroom of The Future' at Notre Dame High School, Norwich; a new £30m Centre for International Students, based at the University of East Anglia, Norwich; the expansion of boarding facilities at Wymondham College; the refurbishment of Hamond's High School in Swaffham; new Student Residences and Medical Centre at the University of East Anglia and a new Learning Resources Centre and Engineering & Technology Centre for Great Yarmouth College.

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**Notes to the Editor**

1. For high resolution images, further information or an interview, please contact: Carri Crook, PR & Press Consultant, Carisma Communications on 01842 815910 or email [carri@carismacommunications.co.uk](mailto:carri@carismacommunications.co.uk).
2. Use of images subject to LSI Architects LLP, 'Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988'. Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988: Reproduction is permitted providing authorship is credited.
3. Founded in 1932, the school is now a charitable trust managed by a board of governors.
4. The redevelopment does not involve an increase in the existing number of pupils.
5. The school occupies a large site bounded by Newmarket Road and Ipswich Road. The site is based around two large former town houses and their extensive gardens and extends to approximately 4.2 Ha. The main house, Town Close House, is a two-storey early Georgian building. The other house, the Pre-Preparatory Department is a two-storey mid-Victorian building. Both of these properties and the Lodge, sited on Ipswich Road, are listed buildings and the site is situated within the Newmarket Road Conservation Area. There are a number of other existing buildings on the site, with diversity of age, type and architectural character. The new development is to occur on the existing school site, which currently exhibits an informal coherence and structure in its planning and design. All of the main buildings are to be retained and the new buildings emphasise a rationalised approach to the site plan.
6. LSI Architects is amongst the most highly regarded design practices in Norfolk and the Eastern Region. It is known generally within the Industry for professionalism, design quality and sustainable design, and, by its clients, for quality of service and creative cost effective solutions. LSI Architects' main clients are corporate and public bodies, with major sectors being the workplace, retail, education, health and master planning. LSI Architects is a practice of over 50 personnel, operating throughout the UK from its bases in Norwich and London. LSI Architects website: [www.LSIarchitects.co.uk](http://www.LSIarchitects.co.uk).