

CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT FOR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP 3RD OCTOBER 2011

On the 15th August the PCC held a special extra meeting to consider a number of 'middle order' decisions which were of importance to the progress of the church building project. Having established the Building Project Steering Group (BPSG) at a previous meeting the PCC also set up a small key advisory group to consider these middle order decisions and make recommendations to the BPSG and via them and the architect back to the PCC. These 'middle order' decisions related to key elements of the Church and Church House designs and in order to finalise the application plans and detailed designs decisions on these were required as a priority matter. The BPSG considered and advised on the costs and benefits of the available options for these decisions.

The 'middle order' decisions can be summarised as follows:-

1. To review three options for the refurbishment of Church House:- Option A was the most extensive and followed the earlier scheme proposals and involved the raising of the main hall floor level, rationalisation of levels throughout the first floor to form level access between all elements of the project (slight incline in the link building) . These proposals include lowering the youth attic floor to form the new kitchen which would be to appropriately high catering standards for all types of function. The existing kitchenette and temporary WC's will be removed. A new central circulation stairway to the ground floor will be provided together with new regulations compliant WC's. New office/meeting rooms/potential café/drop in facility and bookshop would be provided at ground floor level with a link between the barber shop area and Oasis and level access into the Oasis element from the main highway (NB further detailed consideration is being given to the most flexible and active use of this ground floor space and we would welcome your comments).
Option B involved the retention of the main hall floor level as now with rationalised levels to the remainder of the first floor. Option C retained the hall, youth attic, and part of the entrance floor levels. The existing kitchenette and toilets are retained although disabled WC altered to become compliant and include baby change facility. Link through to Oasis and level access from the street were included. Following discussion of the pros and cons of these options PCC decided that this should be considered as a 50 to 100 year building project and that option A was highly preferable, with little cost differential between options A and B and the extra spend between option A and the do minimum option C of circa £68,000 being justified. The option A scheme was supported by 10 votes, none against and 4 abstentions.
2. This second decision concerned the floor levels and screen design for the church tower. The proposal from BPSG was to reduce the floor level to those in the main body of the church and to create a glazed enclosure in order that a quiet chapel / meeting room can be created. The saxon crosses are to be re-sited alongside and to the rear of the link building close to the tower area. These proposals were unanimously agreed.
3. The third item relates to the selection of the most appropriate and cost effective floor covering for the church following pew removal and the installation of the proposed

underfloor heating . The options include stone flooring, ceramic tiles, carpet or wooden floor boards. The PCC following full discussion voted to support the carpeting option by 11 votes in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions

4. Relocation of the tea station in church- it will be necessary to move the tea station as part of the work on the tower and the equalisation of floor levels. The debate centred around the merits of re-instating this in more or less its original position or in one of a small number of alternative locations in church. The essential idea is that this tea station will be used for meetings in church when Church House its kitchen and the link are in use or where meetings/need for refreshment are small and do not merit opening up the larger facilities. The re-siting of the tea station in church was unanimously approved with a second motion that it should be connected to a drain also being supported by 12 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.
5. Finally the special meeting considered the potential impacts of a future organ refurbishment scheme. Steve Harwood had previously submitted a comprehensive report on the organ refurbishment options to the PCC. The organ refurbishment scheme when selected will be the subject of a separate funding project as there are potentially special sources of finance available for this type of work. It is clear that before the carpet is laid the console would need to moved or re-wired. It was agreed that Clive Brook and the architect get more information from diocesan specialists and Steve Harwood.

We are now moving into a short and concentrated period of consultation with the local community and this will include a press release and meetings with the Town Council, Civic Society, Ilkley Design Group, Bradford Ward Councillors and the Manor House Committee. We will also be meeting with English Heritage and the planning officers We hope to submit the applications in November.

This is the most crucial stage of the project to date and we ask for your prayers and support at this time

Clive Brook – Chair BPSG