

Notes And Action Plan From Reading Room refurbishment working party

In attendance: Vivienne Blandford, John Rose, James Roberts, Toby Illingworth, Peter Coxon, Nick Bolton and Simon Johnson. Clerks Beccy Macklen and Claudine Feltham.

VB – glad we have kick started the funding with the proposed transfer of £24 from general reserves to the existing £26 in EMR to make just over £50K. It needs to be made clear this isn't the 'budget'.

It was agreed that it is better not to do refurbishment in dribs and drabs. If we haven't got enough money to do in one hit then budget should be set for 2021/22 and 2022/23 to ensure all work can be completed at once.

Aside from ideas on wish list for the survey response, we also need to look at the roof, flat roof, toilets, windows and floor.

James suggested we might want to consider having twin objectives. 1 make place structurally sound and carry out repairs to make building usable in and 2. Attractive space, décor, stage changes, name change and try and separate those two aspects to make it an attractive venue for parishioners.

Worth getting professionals involved – builders, interior designers to help manage the project hopefully without having to pay for these services. We did have a few offers of help – painting, marketing but no professionals in regards to architecture or design.

Part of the problem is that we don't know what is possible. We may have some ideas but do not know the physical constraints of the building - is it possible to extend?. We need to come up with realistic options.

It was commented that we have got three different people/builders that would be willing to come and have a look.

Agreed – we need more advice to see what we need to do.

Do we need to enlarge kitchen? Will we have people in there that will cater? Nick commented that we would not be able to properly cater in even a larger size kitchen without spending a lot of money on a kitchen. Therefore we need to reorganize the space, provide cooking facilities, fridge freezer so it is usable for parties/gatherings without being to catering standard.

Do we look at extending the hall out at all? As we are replacing the flat roof is it worth extending? If we extended down the side of the hall (kitchen/storage) this could create larger storage.

There is a desire for an outside space. If we were digging out and leveling, we could create something that would provide for outside use.

To make progress – sensible to draft a short brief for third parties to come up with some ideas and designs and use this as base for a discussion.

Funding – possible Nevill Road building? Ionides funds – possibly use some money from Ionides accounts.

Action - Ask builders, how to we make structurally sound (inc roof repairs), new flat roof; or repair; or if extending this side we could change the roof completely, maximise the space, which includes a disabled access and toilet, new kitchen, new windows and double glazing and if reasonable, any extensions that would be worthwhile and possible.