

Project Group Report 3/3/19

On 1st February the Project Group met with Jo Saady and Georgina McLeod, architects for Ecotecture.

Project plans

The latest iteration of the plans and illustrations for the new development contain a number changes from the first set of plans. These changes take into account some of the points made by Friends in their feedback to the Development Group. Jo reassured us that other aspects of the plans, which Meeting has still not decided upon, can be altered at a later date. The layout of the first floor, for example, has been drawn to build in as much flexibility in the layout as possible.

Project timing

Ecotecture hope to have submitted the plans by the end of February. The planning process takes 8 weeks and the technical drawing phase a further 6 months. It was felt that the very earliest that the development could begin (once the Meeting has agreed a final set of plans) would be in 12 months time, with 18 months to 2 years being a more likely time frame, also depending on fund-raising.

Project cost

The Quantity Surveyor is revising the original costing to take account of alterations made in the plans and increases in material costs. The original costing was £441,600. While it is expected that the overall costs will increase, some aspects of the work are now not necessary or are likely to be cheaper than originally planned, which could offset the additional costs of materials

Renovation works

We asked Ecotecture to advise us on which aspects of the renovation work should be undertaken as soon as possible and which can be safely left until the development takes place. Ecotecture reassured us that they have involved a structural engineer who has inspected the building. They have also liaised closely with Conservation Officers to ensure that the proposed work meets conservation requirements. They advised us to complete the inspection work for which we have permission, but said it is not urgent. The Property Maintenance group will take forward those aspects of the renovation work identified as needing urgent attention e.g. the two top windows in the Meeting Room.

Sue Hallett

20/2/19