

Vision 13 Committee Update

April 2024

Committee members:

Rebecca Ray (Chair), Angela Brown, Jean Lindley, Liz Blakey, Neil McLeod, Fran Rowley, Trish Everett.

Throughout 2023/24 there have been small but positive steps forward as the V13 Committee move from the feasibility phase into the design phase. During this phase, APEC will work with a number of key specialists to be able to propose the actual design of the works and the associated costs.

At the start of the design phase, the team felt that the overall plans for the re-ordering, whilst addressing the needs established during the feasibility study, had become rather unwieldy and difficult to manage in order to progress it. The team also unanimously agreed that there needed to be some movement in terms of the project and delivering the changes needed in a timelier manner to meet the evolving needs of the church – people just wanted to see some action!

In August 2023, Magdalen, Becs, Trish and Ryan spent a day visiting churches who had been through a re-ordering process to gain a little more insight and learnings as to what went well and, perhaps more importantly, what didn't!

The priorities for APEC were then identified as follows:

Accessibility and creating a level, accessible entrance to the church.

It was felt that the proposal to create a new entrance which would involve the removal of a window and a significant amount of associated works, in both planning, delivery, time and costs, would prove prohibitive. APEC were asked to look at a revised plan where the existing level entrance was improved to become more accessible to all church users.

Level floor

It was agreed that this remained a propriety and APEC were asked to proceed with these plans and incorporate the feasibility of underfloor heating.

Space Maximisation

It was felt the need for more rooms/enclosed spaces remain a priority and APEC were asked to proceed with plans to glaze the Lady Chapel and make this accessible to all church users. Once the floor is level and we can see the space and how it works, we can then look at creating 'rooms' within the existing space. APEC were also asked to look at the possibility of creating a counselling room in the small space where the current main entrance door is however, this is not possible due to fire regulations and the requirements to keep the exit in situ.

Kitchen/West Room/WC's

APEC have been asked to ensure we are maximising the space potential of this footprint as a whole and look to put a concealed kitchenette/some kind of discreet galley-style kitchen where the tea/coffee is currently served.

Current project status:

Following receipt of this brief, APEC were able to provide the quotations for the required specialists needed to enable them to complete the design phase. The specialists include an Archaeologist, Structural Engineer, Building Services Engineer and Quantity Surveyor. These costs were approved by PCC and APEC were instructed to proceed.

However, the progress stalled when the Archaeologist withdrew from the project. APEC have liaised with the DAC and submitted 3 possible archaeologists for us to review. It is hoped that this will be confirmed by Friday 19th April and the specialist work can commence.

Whilst there are some unknowns, mostly around the archaeology work, it is hoped that, in the coming year the team will have more detailed plans to submit, alongside the projected costs and timescales for each of the priorities identified for approval ready for the work to finally commence.

Rebecca Ray
15th April 2024.