

St Michael's Community Rooms Exhibition 17/18th January 2020

The organisers are very grateful to everyone who came and especially to those who shared responses. Around 150 people came over the two sessions and there was a good buzz with helpful questions and answers about the design and the possibilities. We have had 76 written responses on the comment forms and there are some still being returned as people see the plans which are now displayed in the Church.

There were a lot of compliments about the design. 58 people (76%) were, without reservation, in favour of the proposals. 12 (16%) were not opposed but had a query about one issue, & a further 5 (7%) queried two issues. There was one person out of the 76 who was not in favour of the proposals. We are happy to receive further comments and any ideas which people have.

The biggest concern expressed is about car parking and we understand the importance of this. The County Council's requirements for a hall this size is for 13 car spaces, 3 blue badge spaces, 2 motorcycle spaces and at least one bike rack. We are now working on how to optimise and manage hall parking and we will be having further conversations with the Town Council about the overall parking situation in the Town & will keep people informed.

3 people (4%) would like a bigger hall. The limitation of space on the site, the priority given to two rooms, with the need to preserve access to St Michael's Close and the availability of parking are all factors in the design solutions. This will be looked at again with the architects.

Sound management (4%) in the hall and for residents around have been concerns from the beginning and continue to be so. More information will follow as the designs progress.

There was good discussion about the colour of the cladding during the exhibition with some people seeing how it met the design objective and some feeling that the colour displayed was too dark. 3 people mentioned the darkness as an issue on the comments form. This will be discussed with the architects in finalising the design and the planning application.

2 people wondered whether the kitchen is big enough. We have tried to balance the space necessary for the kitchen and the need for ground floor storage. We have tested the size out with some users who thought it would be appropriate. We will continue to consider the size of the kitchen as we work towards the planning application.

We are working hard with Haydens, a company of Arboricultural Consultants who are advising us on tree health and needs. We will work with District and Town Council officers to find the best mix of protecting roots & replacing trees already diseased. More work will be done during the Spring and Summer. Environmental issues are important to us and were mentioned. We are seeking further professional advice.

MOVING FORWARD

During February there will be conversations with the architects, structural engineer and Quantity Surveyor working on the project and we hope moving it towards Planning Processes. We will keep people informed through the PCC and FTC websites and in Framfare and other publications.

We will keep current users informed during the planning and redevelopment. We are finalising arrangements with East Suffolk Council on their funding towards the project.

We will honour our commitment to keep people informed and thanks to those who have volunteered to help or to make a donation. We will follow up on those offers of help and there will be general information sent to everybody during the spring.

The positive affirmation at the Exhibition and the concerns expressed both encourage and help us to proceed. The plans are still available to be viewed in St Michael's Church. We welcome further comments (please send to framparish@gmail.com or put through the letterbox on St Michael's Rooms)