



Annexe Update No.6. May 2020

Despite the current lockdown, meetings with our architects are continuing using Zoom and much of the work is now focussing on details of the new building. We have chosen the new aluminium windows and their colour and agreed to have a light-coloured timber finish internally. We have also agreed to the colours and finishes for floor and wall coverings on stairs, landings and the meeting rooms and in the kitchen and WC's. The architect is now checking these to ensure that there is sufficient 'visual contrast' for those with a visual impairment. We have decided that the new staircase will have a glass balustrade rather than a steel one and the kitchen layout has been amended to include a warming cupboard. For use in emergencies, a fixed phone line will be installed in the new lift.

We are now at the stage where we have to choose the finishes on the new internal doors and the type of locks to be fitted. We had hoped to achieve an A energy rating but have been advised that this is not possible without expensive additional features which our budget doesn't currently stretch to. So, to keep our future options open, we have asked that the building be future-proofed so that provision is made for installing cables etc should we be in a position to add solar panels at a later date.

In the last couple of weeks, our architect has submitted an application for approval under the Building Regulations and has sent more detailed drawings to the District Council to discharge the conditions on the original planning permission. He has also added a 'chimney' on the rear of the Annex to combine the extraction pipes from the new boiler, WC's and kitchen extractor fan. He hopes to be able to send tenders out in June and for work to start on site in September though this does depend on there being a contractor willing and able to enter into a contract at a price we are comfortable with. At present, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to how the lockdown will affect the building industry in terms of the price of materials and the availability of labour.

On a positive note, we have received a grant of £7,500 from the Beatrice Laing Trust and expect a decision on our application to Tarmac Landfill in June.

With thanks

David Hughes