

Rotherham District Civic Society

**Notes of the fourth Quarterly Liaison Meeting with Environment and Development Services, Rotherham Borough Council, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2009.**

Present:

Bronwen Peace, Planning Manager.

Peter Thornborrow, Conservation & Historic Buildings Officer.

Stan Crowther, Chairman, Civic Society.

Peter Hawkrige, Secretary.

Ian Hawkrige.

The following points were discussed:

1. Masbrough Chapel –  
Advert on site – ‘workshops to let’  
Legal complication with tenant as the property in the hands of the Receivers.  
Receiver wanting around £100,000 for the building - RMBC no funds available.  
RMBC keeping a watching brief on the situation.
2. Boston Castle-  
Civic Society written to the Corporation of Thomas Rotherham College re; security and the possibility of an observatory. PT thought that 3<sup>rd</sup> party use might confuse Heritage Lottery Bid process. Also access to the roof via a steep staircase. A fully HSE compliant access would involve a lift tower extending above roof height. Therefore access by organised groups under supervision.  
Application not yet passed by the Planning Board due to concern over the loss of Coronation Gardens for car parking etc. Deferred for assessment of alternative car parking or redesign of proposed car park.
3. RUFC, Millmoor –  
A copy of the Society’s letter to Gerald Smith dated 26<sup>th</sup> September was passed to BP and she is to respond. There was some discussion of P.T.’s suggestion that a multi storey car park should be included in the stadium development plans.
4. All Saints Building-  
Brief and Business plan to be sent to Yorkshire Forward in January – funding unlikely until after March 2011. Looking at alternative RMBC sources.  
CABE (The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) facilitated an officers workshop regarding the site and prepared a report of analysis.  
There will be full public consultation leading to the preparation of a design brief.

5. Turnpike Wharf –  
I.H. made reference to the latest ‘Renaissance Development Map’ and the statement that this area will now be a focus of public realm improvements with possible underground car parking. In view of the fact that £37.0m was reputedly allocated to the ‘Westgate Demonstrator’ housing market renewal project the question was put as to where the remainder of the money had gone as so far only two new buildings and one refurbished building had been completed. B.P would respond on this matter.
  
6. Three Cranes / THI –  
Anti social activities - Three Cranes / George Wright building raising safety/liability issues. The Police are keen to see the demolition of a back wall and P.T. is advising on what can be removed and the method of palletising the stone and storing it for re-use.  
RMBC want to demolish the burnt out shops as soon as possible. It is hoped to progress demolition works and archaeological investigations (c£20,000 cost) in the next 6 months.
  
7. Satnam, Westgate –  
The company had not progressed the Judicial Review process within the legal timeframe allowed.
  
8. Wentworth Woodhouse-  
Consultants had prepared a Landscape Conservation Plan, on the owner’s behalf, and at P.T’s request. There is potential to designate ‘protected views’ within the LDF. P.T. has contact with many national art galleries etc organisations and mentioned a number of potential option for the future.  
It was stated that the Civic Society would wish to progress further consideration of the wider public interest / tourism strategy etc.
  
9. Thrybergh St Leonards Church –  
The church has been transferred to the ‘Friends of Friendless Churches’. There is a problem of lead theft from the roof. P.T. mentioned the possibility of replacing it with turncoated steel.
  
10. Doncaster Gate Hospital –  
The refurbishment work has already been completed. The £580,000 was spent on a lot of subdivision of the building into offices and conference rooms.  
English Heritage had refused to ‘list’ the window in the board room.
  
11. Firbeck Hall –  
P.T. written to the Friends Group saying he was trying to develop a relationship with the owner and John Styring, the foreman. He has been sent photos of the remedial

work done after the fire damage. Roof now made less accessible to vandals by the removal of the lower sections of the fire escapes. Glen Saint estimates that it would cost £1.0m to fully re-roof the Hall and he can't get Bank finance for this until the Hall has a positive future use.

Delton Jackson, a Canadian urban designer working at Leeds Planning has come up with a proposal to re-use the Hall, and Glen Saint has agreed to meet him to discuss his ideas. In essence it involves the Hall becoming the focus of a major construction industry training scheme which would be run by a Charitable Trust and may involve the Prince of Wales Trust.

The Friends Group is unhappy about the way in which the entrance has been blocked off to deter 'drive in thieves' (at P.T.'s suggestion) and this has become a bone of contention between the Group and the Conservation Officer.

12. Langold Stables –

RMBC has had difficulty in serving an enforcement notice and getting the job back on track. Elan Homes are the likely purchasers of the property. P.T. is to meet their representatives within one week.

13. Catcliffe School-

P.T. had achieved an agreement that the air raid shelter was to be preserved as part of the redevelopment of the school. Breaking it up would have been an engineering operation requiring planning permission.