



December 2018

Dear friends and supporters

## Brunswick Church Refurb... Phase One

Its always encouraging to start a Refurb update knowing people are wanting to know what's going on in and around Brunswick Church and Community- so thank you again for your interest and involvement

Although its only 2 months since we were in contact, this update brings you right up to date from May (because, if you remember, Gordon and Paul forgot to send the May update out until October!)

Back in May we wrote ....

“Specifically, we need to agree a first Stage, liaise with the Diocese and understand what it will cost us to get detailed drawings from OMI from which we can get quotes and tenders. Once we know the detailed cost of this we can apply to funders. We think this might take us to early 2019.”

Thus, our first major decision was what the first phase should be. After a bit of thought and prayer we decided that Phase One should consist of new heating and the work on the hall. This would mean we can have use of the hall for church and other meetings while work is going on in other parts of the building:

- New replacement boiler(s). For some of you of a certain age from the church congregation you will know the significance of this decision!
- New heating in hall and worship room.
- New Insulated hall roof.
- New hall ('Youth') entrance.
- Additional new toilets off the hall.
- Revised car park.
- Beginnings of new church garden.
- Additional storage.



You can see some of the sketches/ideas for these within this update and if anyone is interested, we can send you more plans and detail.

Having decided what we should do first, our next job was to understand how much it would cost in detailed terms, apply for a Faculty – Church of England speak for “permission to change things” – to the DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) and also planning application as our building footprint changes in this phase.

Working with our Architects (OMI) we agreed a price and a process that would get us to a stage where we could start building – and realised that this would cost us about £35k before a spade went in the ground! The Church Council debated this and agreed we should proceed – even though that was about half of our reserves set aside for Refurb as a whole.

So, over the summer and into the autumn we have been doing the detail on Faculty application, planning application and meetings plus obtaining a more detailed costing.

- The first bit of good news is that Faculty was applied for in October, discussed by the DAC, and we are hoping for approval in January.
- The second bit of good news is that planning discussions with the Council went well and the application was submitted in early November and validated and we are hoping for a decision in early January
- The third bit of good news is that with some gifts and a small surplus last year we have managed to cover most of the £35k

However, the fourth bit of news is more challenging. Phase One is going to cost us about £350,000 in total (including fees and VAT ). That was a little bit of a surprise (about 25% up on original cost surprise) but our agreed policy is that we will proceed as funding becomes available and God provides the resources needed. So we embark on the next steps which are when we receive Faculty and planning permissions we go out to tender (as we need quotes before we apply for funding) in January/ February 2019.

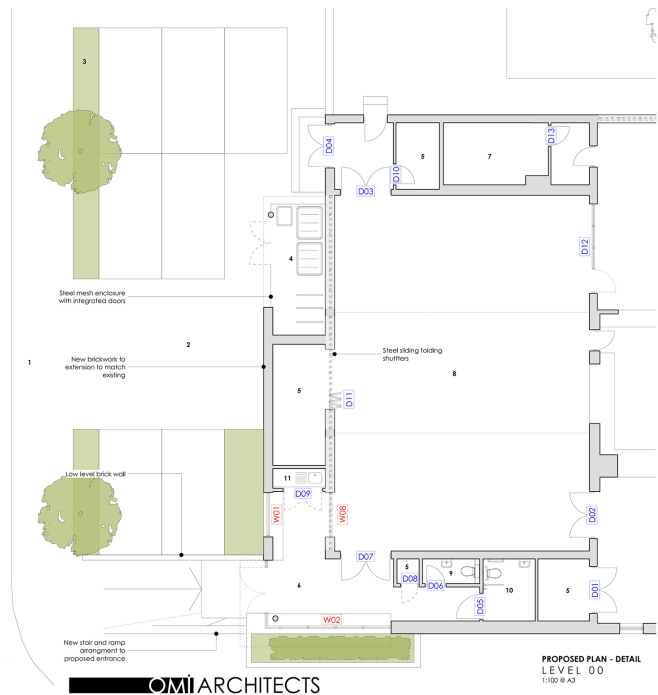
To bring you right up to date, we are now concentrating on looking for funding (currently doing lots of investigation before we start to apply for grants), talking to local businesses, asking the church congregation to fund-raise and trying to share with as many people as possible the opportunities that Refurb can bring to the Brunswick communities. We are also inviting donations from our ex-members. A few of you have already given, which has encouraged us greatly, and we are aware of others who have asked for details of a specific breakdown of costs. This is now available for Phase One c/o an email to: [refurb@brunswickchurch.org.uk](mailto:refurb@brunswickchurch.org.uk).

As we pause to reflect on another year of God's provision for his church and our community, we also look forward to the possibilities of 2019.

If you're local, pop in and have a look at our Refurb displays. If not have a look at the Refurb page on our website ([www.brunswickchurch.org.uk](http://www.brunswickchurch.org.uk)) which gives more detail on what Phase One entails.

If you can help in any way at all – advice, experience, practical and financial – please get in touch and as always if you are someone who prays... please do!

We hope to have some more news in the Spring. In the meantime thank you again for your partnership with us on this Refurb journey.



*The Congregation of Christchurch Brunswick*

