

## Chambers Institution Trust: Update report to PCC 09/04/26

The Phase 1 project continues to progress through the detailed design stage (RIBA Stage 4) as before, and this work is still on target for 28<sup>th</sup> April, as far as I am aware. The scope for the enabling works to be carried out by SBCContracts in advance of the main works contract is currently being planned with a view to these commencing as soon as the relevant areas of the building have been vacated.

The monthly progress report from the Project Board has now been superseded by an informal weekly update email to the Chambers Institution Trustees, which is less detailed, but more up to date.

This month the important focus is on the decanting programme. Competitive quotes were obtained from several removal firms, and the preferred contractor has now been appointed to carry out the removal operations, which are scheduled to begin on 13<sup>th</sup> April and to be completed by the end of April. The contractor will be meeting with tenants this week to deliver boxes and to discuss suitable dates for the respective moves.

Meanwhile Newby Court has been redecorated and prepared for temporary occupation by CAB, Unit 1 in School Brae is to have agreed alterations carried out to suit Go Tweed Valley's ongoing needs in temporary relocation, and Eddleston Primary School has been prepared to accommodate Live Borders staff and the contents of the museum, library and gallery, with the premises having been deep-cleaned, the water supply and heating recommissioned and switched on, SBC property moved to the gymnasium, and new locks fitted to enable independent control by SBC and Live Borders. With the Contact Centre relocating to Rosetta Road, options for a suitable and safe location for the Registrar's external post box are however still under review.

The questions raised at last month's PCC meeting regarding the temporary relocation of public access computers within the Burgh Hall foyer were duly taken on board, and Live Borders will confirm how and where these will be positioned and stored, along with the arrangements for access and security.

The Phase 2 feasibility study and business plan have been completed in draft form, and discussions are now focused on the finalised information to be presented for the next stage of public consultation, which is expected to be in mid-May, date to be confirmed.

The trustees of the Friends of the Chambers Institution have held their first meeting, with the Chair of CIT in attendance, to discuss the purpose and objectives of the new group and actions going forward. A draft Memorandum of Understanding between FoCI and CIT has now been prepared to represent the initial stage of cooperation, and this is expected to be developed further in due course. Communications will be issued soon to invite new members and to confirm planned meeting dates.

The essential works to deal with the dry rot outbreak in the dressing room at the rear of the Burgh Hall should be completed by now, along with the routine fixing of some leaking roof gutters. Some minor roof leaks in the Burgh Hall foyer have been noted and are being addressed, while the kitchen requires external re-painting which is in hand. Regarding the areas of deteriorating stonework at the war memorial, SBC has been in touch with specialist consultants recommended by the Heritage and Design Officer, and a survey is being arranged.

Sam Coe