

Policy & Resources Committee

Date:	2 August 2016
Title:	Thame Museum Building Improvement Project
Contact Officer:	Janine Howells, Asset Manager

Purpose of this Report

1. To provide a verbal / written update on the progress of the building improvement project at Thame Museum.

Update

2. On the 8 April 2016 Thame Museum Trust and the Architect met with Planning Officers from South Oxfordshire District Council for pre planning advice. A formal response was received from the Planning Department on 18 April 2016 enabling the Architect to develop the designs in more detail to enable a planning application to be submitted.
3. On the 26 May the Architect meet with members of the Old Maltings Residents Association (OMRA) to discuss the proposed design for the improvement of the museum building. The OMRA discussed the proposals at their resident's association meeting on 20 June and provided a response and further questions regarding the proposal to the Architect. An extract from the OMRA minutes provided by Jeff Lowe (JL) are detailed as follows:

"JL summarised the meeting (notes previously circulated) held on the 10th March and 26th May, the latter being attended by Matt Cass, Roger Heyne, Shaun Moore and Jeff Lowe on behalf of OMRA. Essentially, OMRA views were expressed regarding the appropriateness of the proposed development (if it were even necessary) and its impact in a Conservation Area/a Listed Building, the neighbourliness of the proposals and the implications of the disruption to the OM during the long construction stage. Various other suggestions were mooted which could obviate the need for the extension, including off-site storage, and changes to the front of the Museum. The bottom line seemed to come down to the issue of encroachment on OM private land. OMRA felt that we would be disinclined to provide access, losing a large chunk of the driveway for many months, in order to facilitate a proposal that we were against in the first place. It was felt that this view, which had already been conveyed to the Architect, should be reiterated."

4. The Architect subsequently met with members of the Museum Management Committee to enable a response to be made to the OMRA. A detailed response was sent to the OMRA on 13 July by the Architect and is attached as appendix 1 to this report.
5. The following orders have been issued by the Council in relation to the project:
 - 5 May: LKA Structures – structural engineering consultancy service.
 - 17 May: Kelvin Sampson – expenses incurred with Ordnance Survey.
6. Officers continue to manage the project in line with the financial contribution from the Council. The Council has to date committed funds of approx. £6,273.74 towards the project.

Action Required

To note the report.