

Cossington Church and Community Centre Project Group Update: Spring 2014

Building for Cossington's future

It's nearly a year since members of the Project Group met with representatives of other village organisations. We established then a vision of what we hoped to achieve:

Building for Cossington's future

The Cossington Project Group seeks to improve the fabric and facilities of All Saints Church in order to:

- **Serve the whole community of Cossington as a community centre for all**
- **Enable and equip the growing Cossington church family to thrive**

A huge amount of progress has been made since then. This is due to the hard work and perseverance of the Project Group and the support of the village. This update will inform you of the present position and what the future holds.



The Architect

We are delighted to have appointed David Pendery as architect for the project. 18 architects tendered for the work, but David stood out from the rest!



David was born in Leicester and grew up from an early age in Cropston, in an Edwardian house designed by an architect for himself. David attended local schools, finishing with a mixture of arts and sciences A levels at Rawlins, Quorn.

After school, the obvious choice was to study architecture and David attended Sheffield University, one of the leading Schools of Architecture. Following completion of full time studies there, David entered architectural practice in Oxford and also completed an MA and then a PhD part time at Sheffield, on the architectural works of Ernest Gimson, the notable Arts and Crafts architect from Leicester, whose early works are in Charnwood Forest.

David has now worked in Oxford for over 25 years and is the partner responsible for the Oxford office of Purcell, the largest practice in the UK specialising in work to historic buildings and new buildings in historic settings. For David, this is mainly churches, Oxford University and College buildings, English Heritage and National Trust properties and privately owned older houses.

When the Cossington project was advertised, David was particularly keen to be appointed, and sees it as a privilege to be able to be given the opportunity to be able to help to make a real contribution to the community of Cossington and develop the church for future generations.

The Shape of the new Configuration

The extension to the north of the existing church building will be single storey and of sympathetic materials. Contained within it will be two meeting rooms which can be combined to make a larger space. These rooms will be accessed separately and will be connected to the kitchen. There will be unisex/disabled toilets and plenty of storage space, some of which can be reached from outside the building.

At present it's not possible to say exactly how the rooms will be arranged or exactly how the extension will look from the outside. That will be determined as we work with the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) who take advice from interested parties such as English Heritage. This work is ongoing and we hope to have plans with which we can move forward in the near future.

Second Site Visit by DAC

On Friday, November 8th the Diocesan Advisory Committee made its second visit to All Saints Cossington. The concluding remarks of the meeting were very positive, noting the considerable progress which had been achieved. They admired how the plans gave the accommodation the village needs whilst also being sympathetically designed. David Pendery has taken note of the Council's thoughts and is preparing further drawings.

Craigmyle

Craigmyle is a fundraising organisation whose job it is to help source the money needed for the project. The project will soon be at a stage when they can now actively pursue funding from the relevant bodies.

Proposed Schedule

David Pendery has put together an outline schedule for the project. We are aiming for the work to start in March 2015.

Consultant Team

Progress is being made in recruiting the other experienced consultants needed for the project. The results of a measured survey of the church building and churchyard and a separate the tree survey have been delivered. The architect can now base his drawings on these very accurate surveys, taking into account the trees' root system.

Website.

A website is in the process of being created which will be dedicated to the village as a whole but will also keep you abreast of the latest news in the development of All Saints Cossington.

If you have any expertise in this area and would like to become involved, please do not hesitate to contact any of those listed below.

Village Involvement

Part of the project is to create a historical archive for the village which will be mainly online and available through the aforementioned website. By gathering local history we can show a community involvement which will impress funding bodies. So, please if you know of any photos, postcards, letters etc. that are connected with Cossington, do contact us so we can digitise our history and make it available to us all.

If you have any questions, thoughts or wish to get further involved in this exciting project, then, do, please get in touch and help make a difference to our village, present and future. Thanks to all those that have already contributed their time and effort.

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