

Bawtry Heritage Group

Notes of sub-group meeting on Wednesday 31 August 2022 to consider layout to inform electrics etc

1. Present

David Kirkham, Mick Maguire, Tony Jones.

2. Objective

Whilst it is envisaged the building works will be completed by the Spring, we did not believe it essential to open the HC immediately. More important to get the interior right – to create a reasonably impressive display, albeit probably not the finished article.

We considered that it would be important to change at least a substantial element of the display regularly. This could be done by elaborating an aspect of the time line – there are several to choose from - e.g. Roman Bawtry, Anglo-Saxon & Viking, the “planted” Norman town, the port function, coaching history, 20th century material based on residents’ memories, “who marched through Bawtry” etc..

All these & other themes also need to be accessible through touch-screen digital technology. We noted the budget of £9.85k for furniture, display, & equipment, including 2 such devices. It was thought that collectively we have sufficient knowledge & ability to “write” the content, but professional expertise will be required to input it & make it accessible. How to source that? TJ has a possible contact, & we can also approach the contact PH introduced us to. MM will also make enquiries of DMBC (museum?) for a source of relevant expertise. The cost of such expertise will be critical.

We reminded ourselves of the need to ask DMBC if they have any Bawtry related material in museum storage that we could display.

3. Layout

The width of the display area is critical to how we use it. It is believed to be 2.4m but this needs checking. A wheelchair requires a minimum width of 800mm. A simple stacking chair is 500mm wide. Therefore, to host an audience in the space for a talk or similar, our capacity will be about 10 rows of 2 chairs – assuming there are no intrusions into the area from either side at seating level. We may therefore need to restrict floor standing furniture (cupboards, display cabinets, bookshelves etc) to the “vestibule” area of the existing entrance which will be closed or the meeting room, with no benches.

If the partition walls which make the “vestibule” area could be removed, & replaced with a folding or sliding screen, the flexibility of the available space would be significantly improved. Not known whether they are important structurally – but the architect’s drawing shows a glass screen.

We had previously decided to use the back wall of the display area for any furniture & wall mounted equipment, with the front (window) wall used for wall mounted “paper” displays, such as a time-line. Today we considered this needs to be reversed, because the windows are too low – any time-line or similar would be at waist level. Alternatively, could the vertical dimensions of the windows be halved – by bricking up & fitting smaller frames – without increasing our building

costs? If this is not possible, TV screens/monitors could be mounted immediately beneath the windows; it wouldn't matter that they would protrude up into the window space.

4. Electrical & IT installation

We noted the budget of £10k for this. Ideally, to maximise flexibility, a continuous data strip will be installed along each side of the display area, to enable access at any point rather than being restricted to individual data points. Affordable? Is the same sort of facility available for electrical power?