

Exciting News...

...the refurbishment of the parish hall is about to commence!

Here's what you need to know

As you'll be aware, there are plans to make changes to the hall and its connection to the church. This will benefit both parishioners and the wider community who use the hall. Given that the hall was built well over 40 years ago, with little change over that time, some updating is required.



Our vision is that with these changes, the parish can look forward to the future with confidence, and with a resource to be proud of. In addition, the parish will be able to achieve more income from renting its facilities.

All of the phases of work to be completed will be subject to detailed drawings, costing and had approval from the local authority. The good news is that local authority approval has been given for the full works.



And in really welcome news, the parish have been successful in winning £50,000 funding from Veolia Environmental Trust allowing the first stage of the improvements to

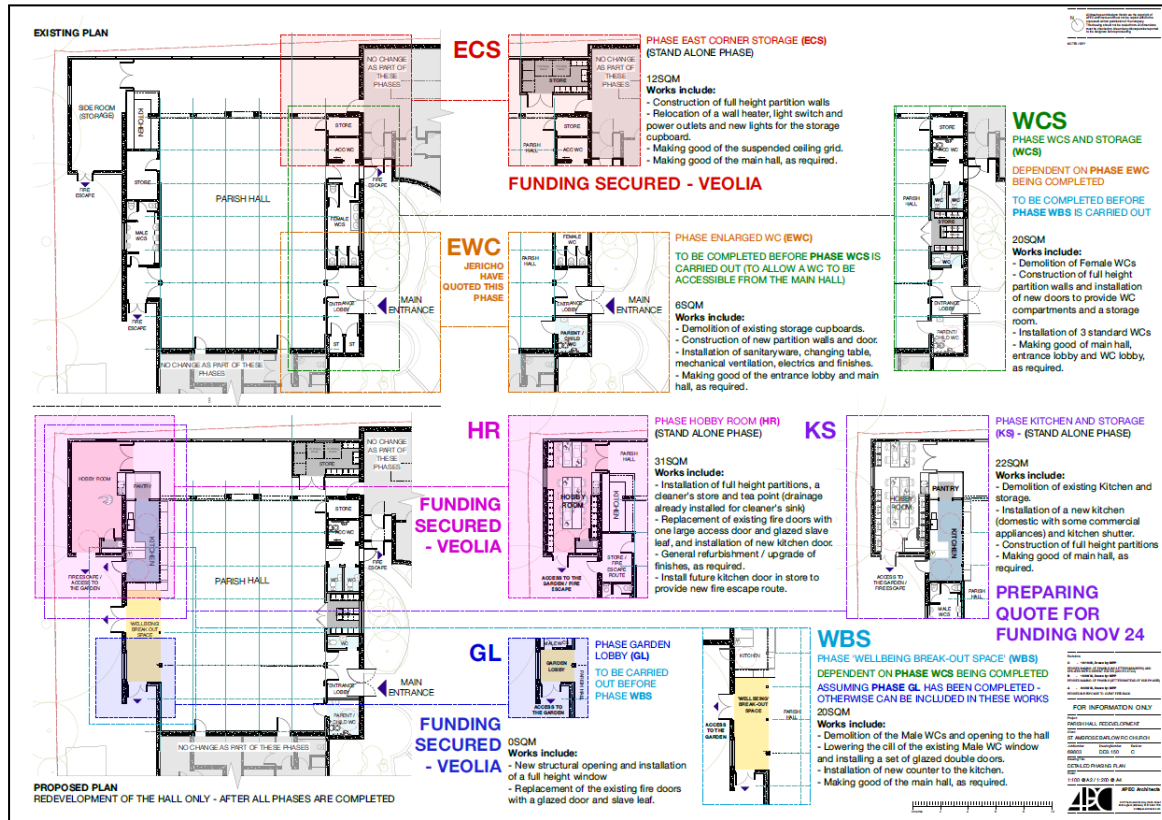


start in December. This includes replacing the white tiles at the rear as well as updating the back storeroom, which will become a hobby/activities room, and improving access to the outdoor space. To say 'Thank You' to Veolia perhaps you can sign the large card at the back of church, which the school have made for us.

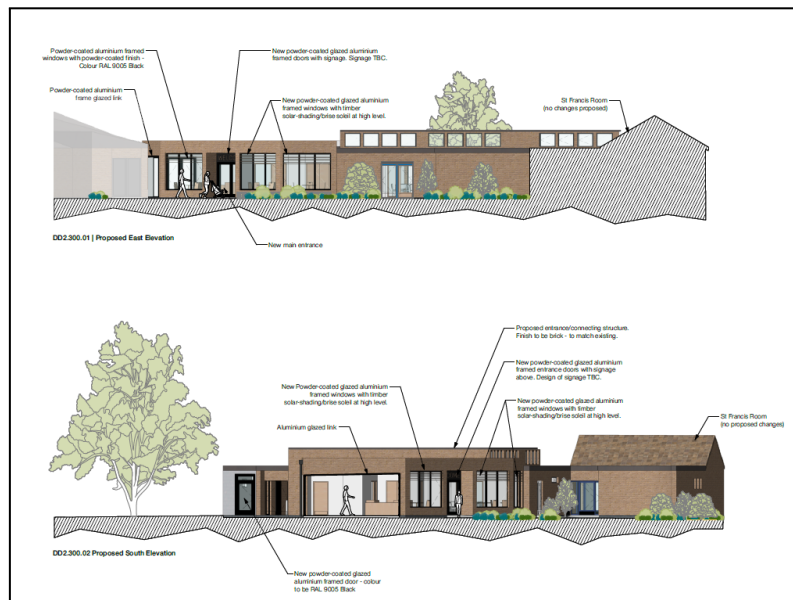
The National Lottery Awards for All program has granted the parish £20,000 to help in the development of the hall and will enable work to start. Overall our aim is to minimise the spend by the parish and maximise funding through grant bodies. If you like a ball park figure would be £1m for a fantastic new 21st Century Hall by investing £50k or £100k by the parish.

Importantly, this funding is for the first stage in the overall scheme and further phases will require additional successful applications to bodies which provide money for community-based schemes. We'll keep you updated on these in the coming months.

ST. AMBROSE BARLOW PARISH HALL UPDATE NO. 1



It's hoped that all of these initial works will be complete in time for the celebration of Easter next Spring.



In the meantime, it's important to be aware of what the work being carried out will mean. Inevitably there's going to be some disruption:

- Reduced car parking during December and into January.
- Limitations to the number of people who can be safely accommodated in the hall (no more than 60) – which as a result, unfortunately, means this year there will be no Christmas party.



Our preferred Architects are APEC, a great local firm with lots of experience in this sector. They say “many people we work with are motivated by improving the lives of those in their communities. We believe that architecture can reflect their values and enhance their activities.” Have a look at the projects they have worked on at www.apec.ac

How you can help:

1. Do you have any skills or experience that could assist? Don't be shy – no need to hide your light under a bushel!
2. Consider engaging in further fundraising activities.
3. Help in getting rid of rubbish we need to clear.



The Parish Hall Steering Group meet regularly to keep abreast of the project and you can chat with any of the members: Chris Price (Chair), Peter Malins, Steve McCabe, Jackie Hayden

or Fr Paul. Also at the meeting from time are the architects Mary and Naomi, our fundraiser, Keely, and others who are helping like Andy from Jericho, the builders who will start some work soon.

If you have any questions or suggestions, then please contact Fr. Paul in the usual way or any one of the team.

NOTES Use this space to jot down ideas, thoughts, questions or suggestions and then come chat with us.....

