

Additional Information

The Old Library Working Group has met twice to consider the future of the Old Library. There are a number of uses which the building could be used for, including:

- Community cinema
- Exhibitions, eg. from local museums, artists
- Youth club
- Raspberry pi club
- Community IT workshops
- Craft events
- Arts venue
- Community events, eg. Christmas market
- Venue hire, eg. Christenings

In order to bring the building to a standard where these activities are possible, the following recommendations are made:

- i) The building should be renovated to provide access to meet Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requirements. This is best achieved by dropping the floor level so that the entrance is level with the pavement.
- ii) In order to maximise space, the entrance area should be extended forward, using the area where the steps are currently. This would provide space for two toilets, one being a disabled person's toilet, and a cupboard to house a boiler, cleaning equipment, etc.
- iii) To preserve the character of the building, the front wall would be rebuilt, re-using the arch window, carved stonework, and quoin stones. The small windows would also be reused if possible.
- iv) A kitchen area should be provided, with a sink, fridge, work area with space for a microwave, and cupboards for storage. This can be positioned in the front western window recess to minimise the space required.
- v) Where possible, sustainable building materials and methods will be used.
- vi) The building of a mezzanine level would be postponed, allowing time for the need and requirements for a second level to be fully thought through. However it is proposed that the plans include the infrastructure for a mezzanine level in the future, eg. provision of electricity to the 2nd floor, lining of the interior walls to the bottom of the mezzanine height.

It will be necessary to submit a new planning application (the previous planning approval for renovation of the Old Library expired in December 2012, so an amendment to these plans is not possible). Cllr Ward has met with officers at Ryedale District Council to discuss the proposed plan with the extension to the entrance. The Conservation Officer would have no objection to the Plan, preferring this to the previous plan, and the planning officer also has no objection.

The Working Group has discussed the possibility of seeking sponsorship to off-set some of the building costs, and would investigate this further if the Council agrees to proceed.

Also being investigated is how the building could be managed in the future, and how various options will affect on-going costs, responsibility and control by the Council, and the impact on business rates.