

Report to CCT Council 9th December 2014-12-07
New Works Committee

Change of meeting Venue

New Works Committee have been informed that we will no longer be able to hold our regular meeting at the planning department in the Forum Offices as they are vacating their offices there from 16th December and moving to Nicholas House.

I have had a meeting with Fiona Hore, Head of Development Management to discuss how the council could accommodate meetings of New Works in the future.

First I was informed that paper files for planning applications are to be phased out so we would have to rely on electronic files accessed via the Internet.

Nicholas House, which is where the planning department (and the planning application files) will be housed in future, is not open to the public. Fiona Hore will investigate the booking of a room at CWAC headquarters for our use where we should be able to access the planning applications on a computer via the Internet. However this is unlikely to be at the popular mid day slot as the rooms are heavily used for council business.

Even if we are able to secure a room there are a number of disadvantages in this.

First the HQ building is more remote from town centre bus stops.

Secondly a meeting other than at lunchtime would be unfavourable for members of the committee who work in the town centre.

Thirdly the availability of a meeting room would be unreliable as the priority is use for council business.

Therefore given that direct access to the planning department with a supply of paper files is to be no more, and that we will have to access all applications via the internet, then the location and time of our meeting can be at our convenience.

The best location and time would be to continue our regular 1 p.m meetings on a Thursday at Bishop Lloyds Palace.

If this is acceptable then the remaining problem is Internet access for finding the planning applications on our agenda and the means of viewing them on a large enough screen to hold a committee discussion.

This would mean that the Civic Trust would have to acquire suitable computer Internet access and a means of displaying computer images on a large

screen format. This is what we would expect to be offered in the possible meeting rooms at CWAC HQ building.

Once acquired this equipment could be used for all sorts of presentations and meetings, greatly expanding CCT's facilities for meetings at BLP.

Recommendation.

Council are recommended to consider the acquisition of suitable computer, Internet access and projection equipment for the use of its committees and other meetings it may host at Bishop Lloyds Palace.

Andrew Pannell.