



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

ARCHBISHOPS'
COUNCIL

Mrs Jean Gosling
Norwich DAC Secretary
Diocesan House
109 Dereham Road
EASTON
Norwich
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Church Buildings Council
Jude Johncock
Casework Officer

28 February 2012

Dear Jean,

**Blofield, Ss Andrew & Peter (Diocese of Norwich)
Proposed west end gallery and facilities**

Thank you for inviting the Council to be represented at the recent site meeting at Blofield. The Council met recently and considered this case and I am now able to set out its advice.

The Council had previously supported the principle of the scheme and was pleased to see the worked up scheme by JBKS architects. The Council welcomed the revisions so that the entrance no longer came directly into a meeting room but regretted that the staircase needed to extend so boldly into the nave. It conceded that it would be difficult to achieve a staircase within the west end without compromising the proposed meeting space.

The Council questioned whether the design and layout of the gallery and rooms had been clearly driven by need and whether the apportionment of space was appropriate. The kitchen is particularly large, is this justified by the level of use it will require? The tower room is a useful smaller meeting space but does the amount of storage proposed here restrict its use? The Council would encourage the parish to be sure that they have a clear idea of needs and spaces to ensure the new accommodation will work efficiently for them.

The Council was not convinced by leaving the WC partitioning in place which could create an aesthetically odd mix of old and new interventions and again it would encourage a fresh look at whether the facilities are in the most appropriate location.

The screen that separates the nave from the west end has been assumed to have particular significance. The Council would encourage establishing the significance of the screen more precisely, seeking expert opinion if necessary, in order to ensure that the scheme is properly informed by its actual, rather than perceived significance. The paper by Paul Cubitt received after the Council meeting is a useful first step in this process.

The Council agreed that it was happy to offer continued support for the principle of the scheme but would encourage careful consideration of the planning of the space and use of

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the new accommodation. The Council was happy to defer these discussions and the detail of the scheme to the DAC.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Jude Johncock (Mrs)
Casework Officer

cc - Paul Cubitt
Catherine Cullis, SPAB
David Eve, EH