

Holt Rectory

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Sent: 22 April 2010 11:39
Subject: RE: St Andrew's Church Holt - proposed extension

Dear Glyn, et al,

I have received an advance set of plans from Ruth's office and am pleased to find a proposed extension the generalities of which are very much in line with the advice offered by the DAC following recent discussions.

By placing the building wholly within the school field it allows it to be a more independent structure - physically and in design terms - as well as retaining the historic line of the churchyard wall. From the field (south) side the large blind wall is quite striking. The plain flint wall will, however, perpetuate the sense of enclosure given by the existing boundary wall (realigned southwards). I must say that I had envisioned a flat or lean-to roof for the new building (pitched away from the church) rather than the curve. The eastern end of the curved roof would be quite prominent, visually affecting the clerestory windows and I think it would be interesting to see a sketch with it lowered to reveal them.

Linking the building at the western end is tricky, but it must be remembered that the western elevation will not be seen as drawn because of the churchyard wall (as well as the trees). None the less, the combination of four distinct units (porch, boiler house, link and extension does make for a rather attenuated appearance, even though the link and hall roofs will, of course, be far more recessive when seen from the west than the plan suggests. The idea of demolishing the boiler house has been spoken of before and I wonder if this were done a single linking corridor element could be built between the porch and new extension that would much simplify this part of the scheme. A predominantly glazed link, with views through to the garden, could distinguish the old from the new and create a 'cleaner' space between them.

Ruth has prepared two versions of the southern elevation towards the courtyard. I much prefer the fully glazed version as the glazing relates directly to the form of the roof without the introduction of the somewhat vernacular detailing seen in the alternative version.

As is quite reasonable, there have been no details prepared of the courtyard landscaping at this stage, although some steps are marked on the plan. This will represent challenges as the ground level cannot be lowered too far (even with archaeology permitting) for fear of undermining the churchyard wall, or raised too high against the south wall of the church. I certainly think this should be retained as a green space rather than paved, but will await further details in due course.

I hope this advice is of assistance,

Best Wishes,

David
