

The Fox Public House

Redevelopment of the Fox Public House

In July there was an exhibition of the proposed redevelopment of the Fox Pub in the function room of the pub. This showed that the original pub façade would be retained but the inside of the building would be redesigned with a smaller pub footprint, a flexible space which could be used for functions and a retail space. The car park would be developed as a residential unit which would be four storeys high and contain 44 flats with limited parking on the ground floor.

FLDRA welcomed the refurbishment of the pub as a 'high quality, food led' pub which would be family friendly but has serious concerns about the size of the flexible function space which is too small to hold Talkies screenings or music clubs. The Fox Pub has been designated as an 'Asset of Community Value' and its function room needs to be suitable for such groups. Also, there was no provision for a pub garden which would have attracted families with children.

The design of the new modern building over the car park was seen as too intrusive on Fox Lane. It would dominate the restored pub facade especially as the building line is directly on to the pavement and the boxy design with windows covering two storeys and jutting out from the roof is unsympathetic to the character of the houses in Fox Lane. None of the flats proposed were classified as 'affordable' housing so will not meet the housing need in the local area.

The proposals and objections have been put forward to the planning committee but no further information is currently available.

Broomfield House

The Broomfield House Partnership Board has continued to examine ways of funding the restoration and rebuilding of Broomfield House and stable yard. Discussions have recently centred on producing a Planning Statement intended to form the basis of an approach to the market seeking fresh ideas from a commercial partner. This could be issued in late February or early March. The Broomfield House Trust and Broomfield Park members of the Board will continue to press for a solution which maximises public/community access and use.

The Lanscroon Murals. The Trust has sufficient funds to cover a trial restoration of the Minerva section of the Lanscroon murals, formally a treasured part of the house, and is discussing ways of arranging its exhibition at the Dugdale Centre later this year. Our central aim is to provide information on the costs and technical aspects of a more major restoration and installation in a rebuilt Broomfield House main hall. Should reinstatement not prove possible, then the Minerva section will serve as a reminder of what has been lost. For more information see our Facebook page "Broomfield House and the Lanscroon Murals".