

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD)

DATE: 2 DECEMBER 2013

SUBJECT: MEMBER QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

DIVISION: REIGATE



1. Reigate Priory – Cllr Roger Newstead (Reigate Hill)

"I have five questions for the next Committee meeting:

- (i) What progress has been made to date on the restoration work at Reigate Priory?
- (ii) When will the work be completed?
- (iii) When will Reigate Priory Museum be able to return to the building?
- (iv) Will the Museum enjoy the same space and facilities that it had before the enforced closure of that part of the building? (I understand that the school is pressing to reclaim part of the museum area because of its increased pupil numbers.
- (v) Will public access to the Holbein Room be available at appropriate times as previously?

The museum is an attractor for the town and helps to bring in visitors to the benefit of the local economy."

The Chairman responds on behalf of the Local Committee:

- (i) A full design and specification has been agreed with English Heritage, and we are conducting discussions with the contractor to agree commercial and other matters and a planned start.
- (ii) The planned works may take at least a year, based on the substantial works to be undertaken and sensitive nature of doing so in such a building. This work includes further structural issues that were discovered during the course of our most recent surveys and investigations, hence the need to provide temporary buildings to house a number of pupil classes, until these areas of work are first addressed. The current programme will be solely dependent on not finding further structural issues as the work progresses. This is not something we can guarantee, as the nature of the building means we are unable to undertake intrusive surveys unless instructed to do so by English Heritage and this will only occur, if something untoward is discovered.
- (iii) Based on (ii) above, we are unable to answer this at this stage.
- (iv) This will be dependent on (ii) and the results of structural surveys and loading calculations, which will determine what storage, if any, can return to the building. A report is being prepared to update all parties on the nature and extent of the surveys and their findings and proposed work. This will provide the opportunity to discuss the points which have been raised.

- (v) We would envisage no change to the ability at a future date, to provide Public Access at appropriate times to the Holbein Room. This will of course, for Health and Safety reasons, not be available until all works have been completed and the areas returned to the school for reuse.

Contact Officer:

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