



**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**LOCAL COMMITTEE (REIGATE & BANSTEAD) DATE: 1 December 2014**

**SUBJECT: WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS**

**DIVISION: REIGATE**

**Question from Councillor Roger Newstead**

“Please may I have an update on the progress of the restoration work at Reigate Priory and an estimate of when Reigate Priory Museum will be able to move back into the building and the space which will be available to the Museum for both display and storage?”

**Answer from Chairman on behalf of the committee:**

The update on Reigate Priory maintenance work is as follows:

**Reigate Priory – Briefing**

**Classroom 33/Holbein Hall**

Structural works are still on-going at Reigate Priory to the classroom over the Holbein Hall. This is due to additional works being found to the load bearing structural timbers needing further investigations and strengthening works along with English Heritage, (EH), approvals and inspections.

This work is anticipated to be completed by December, however given the drying time for Lime Plasterwork, we will need to return after the 90 day drying period to complete redecorations.

**Summer 2014 Investigations**

During the school summer holidays of 2014 additional investigations were undertaken within the Ancient Scheduled Monument,(ASM), area of the building. It was felt prudent to carry these investigations out due to the serious nature of the structural works already being undertaken. This would allow the Property Department to plan any works identified alongside and with those works already acknowledged in the condition survey undertaken in 2013. These additional investigations included uplifting of floorboards, removing wall panels and render sampling. It has highlighted additional structural repairs over and above those already identified to the museum roof as follows:

**Museum Area**

The removal of render and internal panelling in this room has identified corresponding internal and external cracking to the exterior walls. Further investigations are required to confirm the extent of the cracking and cause. Further monitoring to this area is also required to ensure that movement has stopped to ensure any design does not cause further damage, although this cannot be guaranteed. The investigations and monitoring will take place over the next 12 month, to capture full seasonal changes etc; therefore we do not envisage that this area will be open until September 2016. All works to the roof, ceiling and any underpinning requirements will be carried out as one project. This is subject to no further structural issues being uncovered.

There are other areas subject to investigation, survey and repair being undertaken in conjunction with English Heritage, but do not immediately impact the area previously occupied by the Museum.

A briefing was provided to the Museum Curator in early November and a meeting was proposed to be held with representatives from the Museum this Friday 28 March, to update them on the latest works. This meeting is now being rearranged to occur in December at a date to be agreed. In the meantime Officers from Reigate and Banstead will be provided with an update on works throughout the building on the 28 March.

**Contact Officer:**

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