

Daniel Vick

From: Ian Wightman [iwightman@chichester.gov.uk]

Sent: 15 December 2011 18:21

To: Peter Cleveland

Cc: Daniel Vick

Subject: RE: St Marys Hall, Arundel

Dear Peter/Dan,

RE: Floor at St Marys Hall, Arundel

Thank you for your email. Sorry for the delay in replying, but have been in a long meeting this afternoon.

The removal of the floor is important as it results in both the loss of historic fabric and therefore part of the building's significance. In doing so it conflicts with the requirements of PPS5 and the associated guidance which asks authorities to seek to preserve such features. With this in mind there are at least three points that should be raised and considered here. They are as follows:

179. The fabric will always be an important part of the asset's significance. Retention of as much historic fabric as possible is therefore a fundamental part of any good alteration or conversion, together with the use of appropriate materials and methods of repair. It is not appropriate to sacrifice old work simply to accommodate the new.

184. The introduction of new floors into a building or removal of historic floors and ceilings may have a considerable impact on an asset's significance. Certain asset types, such as large industrial buildings, are generally more capable of accepting such changes without unacceptable loss of significance

188. Extant flooring materials will often be of interest in themselves. Additional care is needed on lower floors to ensure that archaeological interest below the finished surface is not adversely affected by proposed works.

Given the appearance and quality of the existing floor, I would have thought it wise to try and preserve it, at least archaeologically. This would enable it to be covered, but would not result in its total loss from the building. Removal and replacement of the floor will require full and convincing justification with regards to the need for a new surface to provide a long term, sustainable use for the building. I am still not sure why this cannot be achieved with the existing floor and a more conventional heating system, but perhaps that can be explained more fully. If this is convincing in that is necessary for the successful reuse of the building then, it could be considered acceptable.

Please let me know if you require advice further to this information being provided. I can call to discuss if necessary.

Ian

Dr Ian Wightman

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From: Peter Cleveland [mailto:Peter.Cleveland@arun.gov.uk]

Sent: 15 December 2011 12:54

To: Ian Wightman

Subject: St Marys Hall, Arundel

Hi Ian

Sorry to contact you today but I have had a request from the agent (Melanie Latham) for the above site wanting to discuss with you the issue of the stone floor uncovered within the lower ground floor area of the building. They have a site meeting tomorrow and they wanted to know the next step to take with the building.

I realise you are only working for us on Wednesdays but was hoping that I could either forward Melanie a

comment from you or discuss something with her later today.

Kind regards
Peter

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