

HERITAGE STATEMENT – Wokingham Baptist Church LBAC application

There has been a Baptist place of worship on this site for 250 years with celebration of this milestone last year.

The proposed works do not involve any ground works, excavation, alteration or loss of historic fabric of the Listed Building.

As detailed in the Statement of Significance the vision and practice of the Church provides considerable outreach and support of the local community supporting spiritual, physical and mental health and need. Continued and sustainable use of the hall, offices, upper room and Sanctuary via the Atrium is essential to continue this work.

The leakage of the Atrium barrel roof has been an ongoing issue for many years, and various sealant solutions have been applied to no real long-term success. Whilst addressing the leakage temporarily the inability to safely access the roof and undertake regular maintenance, a fundamental, original inappropriate design fault from an operational / maintenance perspective can only be corrected through a new roof design.

Proposal of works: Please see architects sketches and drawings of proposal.

Removal and replacement of 2/3 of the barrel roof (sections projecting into the roof area) with a flat roof with central skylight will provide a leak free, safe standing platform for gutter clearance and general maintenance including cleaning of the skylight and remaining barrel roof feature.

Provision of a skylight will allow the stair well to benefit from natural light as today. Safe and effective access to the Atrium roof will be provided from the Upper room through replacement of existing standard Velux with a top hinged fully opening Velux facilitating a 'walk out' opening once fully open.

The underside of the flat roof and new ceiling to the Atrium will be finished to match that of the pine roof in the Upper Room thus giving continuity to design integrity, look and feel and consistent flow of textures.