



## **The Hive Construction Report April 2021**

Works have started! We now have workers and volunteers on site clearing the building to prepare for the construction work ahead.

After many months of planning interrupted by a global pandemic and three national lockdowns, The Hive's construction committee have been hard at work surveying, drawing up and costing our plans to undertake a comprehensive renovation of our new home.

Many options were examined to work out how best to provide the space and facilities that The Hive set out to provide in 2019. We have commissioned a number of reports and surveys and have uncovered parts of the building that had been left undisturbed for decades. With a full understanding of the history & original construction of the buildings, we have determined that the most sustainable way to proceed is to renovate the building, emphasising the original design and features of a structure that dates back as far as the 19th century. Whilst presenting the challenges we're all too aware of, the past 12 months has provided useful breathing space to properly plan an affordable phased approach to these construction works.

The renovation will be divided into three phases:

The first phase entails a complete external refurbishment to provide an outdoor performance area, bar and street food shack. Coupled with the construction of an all new cafe bar, this will be the focus of The Hive's activities in the months ahead. In addition, a tiered courtyard will afford great views of the live events The Hive will be hosting in late Spring & Summer and during the day, this will be tranquil space to enjoy a drink, nibble on some great food and chat with friends. We have set ourselves the ambitious target of completing the external works by the end of May with the opening of the cafe bar to follow closely after.

Phase two will upgrade the performance space, making it suitable for the wide variety of events proposed when The Hive was originally formed back in 2019. Key to this will be the re-establishment of the indoor performance space ready to welcome fans to indoor live performances later this year and with the added flexibility to display works by local artists, present cinema screenings and provide a much needed community space.

Phase three requires the refurbishments of the entire first floor of the building including replacing the slate roof and the installation of additional natural lighting and renovating the upstairs rooms including providing a larger space ready for rehearsals and recordings.

As part of our explorations into the building we have uncovered a fabulous timber vaulted ceiling lurking unseen for many years. The original character of the building and its structure will be a key feature once the renovations are completed.



We currently have funding already in place to complete two of the three phases in their entirety and the trustees feel sure that with further fundraising efforts as the year progresses The Hive will be able to complete the majority of the renovation works in 2021.

In the meantime, for a glimpse at what we are doing right now, take a look at our concept sketches. If you have any comments or have time to offer help in achieving our vision, please drop me an email to: [admin@thehivelive.org](mailto:admin@thehivelive.org)

Stephen Edmondson - April 2021

