

Item 9n

Dear Chair,

I was very disappointed to receive the below email from Adele confirming that the council had decided to proceed with the other candidate the council invited to prepare a feasibility study for this project. I was baffled to learn that the decision was made at the council meeting which immediately followed the presentations on 7th April, when it had been agreed that I would issue my feasibility report to the council by email the following day, for distribution to councillors.

I knew I could help TFPC do something really good with the building and so I invested a great deal of thought and time into developing my feasibility study and options. The only briefing information I received was given to me when I met with Barry and Adele on site back in September 2024 and I directly addressed this in my Option B (with an optional gallery). I had also presented two other very different options, along with potential phasing strategies. I demonstrated that there is a wide range of possibilities and explained that an appropriate design solution should follow the formulation of a brief. The purpose of a feasibility study is to assist you with the development of a brief, not to jump straight to a design outcome.

At an early stage I had highlighted the importance of comparing like with like (registered architects with similar levels of relevant experience) and at the time received reassurance from Adele that this was the case. The minutes of your February meeting confirm that the council were to consider fee proposals from two architects. I am surprised to now learn from the minutes of your April meeting that the other candidate was in fact an interior designer and not an architect. As an architect, I often work alongside interior designers where a project requires both architectural and detailed interiors input. The two roles are very different. The brief I was given was for a project of an architectural nature, not just interior design. Please can you confirm what brief was given to the other candidate for the feasibility and what selection criteria the council used in reaching their decision.

I will forward my invoice for the feasibility, based on the agreed time charge with the time cap the council imposed. Please note that this only represents a fraction of the considerable amount of time I actually spent working up the feasibility and the three design options. I was happy to put in the extra time at risk given my understanding of the situation at the time. Had I been made aware that it was not a level playing field, I would certainly not have put in the same effort and might well have withdrawn from what has proved to be a most unsatisfactory process.

Kind Regards,

Paul Foxley RIBA

