

Lambeth Palace Library

January 2017

Dear Neighbour,

A planning application for a new library in the grounds of Lambeth Palace has been submitted to Lambeth Council in December 2016.



Designed by Wright & Wright architects



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The proposals will preserve an unrivalled collection of precious books and manuscripts that are currently under threat from inadequate storage conditions in the Grade 1 Listed buildings of the Palace, which cannot be further adapted to meet the current standards for libraries and archives without damaging them.

The decision to re-house the collection in a new purpose built library within the grounds of Lambeth Palace, not only ensures the future of these historical records, but also preserves and enhances the symbolic physical link between Church and State, affording views of both the Palace of Westminster and Lambeth Palace. Furthermore, the plan keeps the collections at Lambeth Palace where they've been for over 400 years, since the library was founded in 1610.

Public benefits include:

- Preserving and protecting the collection for future generations;
- Enhanced access to these internationally important books and manuscripts;
- Improved public access with impressive display space;
- Teaching and seminar space with views of the wider London area;
- A new cultural landmark for Lambeth and London;
- Enhanced landscaping both on the street and in the gardens – visible from Lambeth Palace Road for the first time; and
- Further restoration and greater public use of the existing palace buildings.



Storage at capacity inside 15th Century Morton's Tower



Public consultation event – September

- **94%** overall support for the proposals
- **86%** support for the design of the proposals
- **88%** support for the landscaping proposals
- **75%** agree the proposals will create a cultural landmark for Lambeth
- **96%** would visit the library when it opens
- **94%** agree the collection should be kept at Lambeth Palace

We have been pleased to take on board some suggestions from the public consultation ahead of our planning application to Lambeth Council. The design has been updated to reduce the buildings scale on the street side, allowing it to better complement the scale of the neighbouring hospital, Palace and boundary wall. Views to the Palace garden from the hospital have also increased.

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Lambeth Palace Library will continue to be an internationally important centre for study, research and teaching, especially in the fields of ecclesiastical history and of manuscripts, archives and rare books. The new building will allow the Church Commissioners to open the doors of the library to the wider community with regular programmes of displays and events in purpose built facilities offering displays of treasures from the library's collections.

The Church Commissioners and all of our advisers are committed to working with the local community and will continue to keep the local community up to date on our plans.

Preliminary works:

In advance of the archaeological digs which started early October, some minor works were carried out in the garden to prepare the way for the library. The Lambeth Palace beehives have been relocated within the garden so as not to disturb the bees during pre-construction and construction works.

The Museum of London Archaeology completed their works to the site at the end of October 2016. As well as the 18th Century cow skeleton (shown right), other discoveries included the remains of a few small ditches and pits containing some Roman and Saxon pottery.

We would welcome your support of this application and invite you to play a part in starting a new chapter in the Palaces' history, ahead of the decision at Lambeth Council Planning Committee in the coming weeks. You can write in support of the application on the Lambeth Council Planning Portal using the reference number 16/07054/FUL



Lambeth Palace Library Reading Room



18th Century Cow Skeleton (picture by Museum of London Archaeologists)



Beehives in Lambeth Palace Gardens

Timeline (subject to approval by Lambeth Council):

2018-
2020

Construction
period

2020

Occupation
and open

Contact us:

For more information on the new Lambeth Palace Library and Archive, get in contact with us at:

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