

Development of the Manor.



Meeting held at the Manor by Friends of The Manor

Fenland District Council (FDC) provided Alex Miscandlon and Phil Hughes to present the initial plans and objectives to Friends of The Manor (FOTM) at a meeting (18:30 25-02-2025). Chairman Robin Sutton hosted the group's bi-monthly meeting. It was explained that there is no guarantee that development will take place. One option for FDC is to renovate the existing buildings, compare the costs with demolition, and create a single building to house all the requirements. When the eventual proposal is defined, it must be recommended to FDC and approved.

The FDC website has details of the initial drawings for a single building. A detailed design will not be prepared until all suggestions from the community are considered. The basic dimensions of the swimming pool are likely to remain similar to the existing footprint, but a new lining will be provided. After changes to heating, ventilation, changing areas and reception areas, it should be possible to 'attach' the other facilities, demolish the main building, and convert that area into parking and green space. It is anticipated the pool will be closed for six months.

Designing the new building will likely cost £500,000 and could include new sports areas. Facilities need to be self-financing and contribute to the overall cost of operation. Having the right facilities in the right places will attract additional income. Sustainability will make the asset more attractive if an organisation(s) considers taking on a lease.

The café facility, in addition to the kitchen, is viewed as an income generator. The chair, reflecting comments by a member of the public, observes that access to all is important and that the safety of all is paramount. Another observation is that modern CCTV is built into any design.

The meeting asked questions of the presenters and agreed that the FOTM secretary should record comments and requests and that additional feedback is welcome. Exterior lighting and a better layout for vehicles to access and exit safely will be important. Another suggestion is to provide storage facilities to sports and other organisations to facilitate active transport rather than using vehicles.