

Design and Access Statement

Description of the Works

The Application relates to two elements:

1. Infill extension to the undercroft to provide an extended entrance into the Library.
2. Remove the 2no. raised flower beds within the piazza which are outside the Library and Chapel.

The Library is an important focal point of the University and the purpose of the application is to increase its visibility and accessibility for students and visitors.

Background

The application area is outside the St Mary's University Chapel which was built in the early 1960's and is Grade II listed. There are undercrofts both sides of the Chapel and 2no. raised flower beds in front of the undercrofts which are all later additions.



Chapel View in winter

Access

The existing arrangement means pedestrian and wheelchair access into the Library is restricted by the flower beds. The main entrance into the Library is also set back and trees are covering the area so new visitors especially have to ask where the entrance is.

The application will benefit the users because we will be creating a clear walkway flow into the Library. It will be sympathetic with the existing landscape arrangement by having landscaping which will achieve the same cover as before.

Scale and Appearance

The new undercroft extension will be black powder coated aluminium framed units with an automatic double to the front, all to match the existing. The side walls of the extension will have brickwork with stone cill above to match the detailing of the walls around the extension.

The raised flower beds will be taken down to the same level as the existing piazza area. When looking at the Chapel the flower bed on the left will be taken down and new planting and soft landscaping will be installed to match the existing. The right flower bed will have a mixture of new York paving slabs, brick pavior and soft landscaping as indicated in the drawing. The soft landscaping on both sides will be enclosed using stain timber diamond knee rail fencing.



Raised flower beds in relation to the surrounding buildings

Landscaping

The existing and proposed landscaping to both sides of the chapel will continue to enhance the view of the chapel when standing in the piazza. It also softens the view of the later additions either side of the Chapel. It is our intention that the proposed work will not compromise this and will continue to be sympathetic to the original view.

As part of the Application we will be removing the existing shrubs in the raised flower beds however wherever possible the shrubs and bushes will be replanted elsewhere on site or at a lower level in the same position.

The Application will require the relocation of 2no. palm trees which are blocking the route to the Library. The trees are insignificant as there are other existing trees which will continue to soften the view of the Library.



Library view in Summer – Red line indicates raised Flower bed to be lowered and the palm trees to be removed



Existing Undercroft to be infilled to create an extended entrance into the Library