

Informal meeting at The Masonic Centre - Sunday 5th March.

Present - Mike Dench, Mick Haynes, Nigel Lindley, Len Lewis, John Pearson, Ian Bratley, Ian Greenfield, Steve Baker, Roger Thorpe, Chris Taylor, Ray Heyes –Bowden and Anthony Heyes-Bowden.

Objective - to examine and discuss improvements to the building, particularly the bar area, to make it more comfortable and appealing to members (and hirers) and to extend and improve overall usage.

Several areas of discussion ensued, with different ideas being coming from all quarters and whilst is only the start of the project it was agreed that proposals should be put forward for further and more detailed discussion prior to approval.

Subsequently a number of contrasting thoughts were discussed but ultimately the general view was that it would be beneficial to move bar into the hall area, leaving a nicely sized open 'lounge' area that could be furnished and decorated accordingly – this would also include a vanity screen at the entrance to the ladies toilet.

Bi-fold doors or internal glazed doors could separate the main hall from said lounge, while still enabling the area to be 'opened up' should, or when, the need arises.

First impressions, as one enters the hall would be far more appealing and inviting than at present.

The bar itself could be moved onto the left- hand wall of the hall (see attached diagram), as behind it there is good access to utility services. This also lends itself to added security with an easier route to installing a security grill, and the actual bar counter size can be then determined to meet the current regular drinks requirement of Masonic meetings. The glass washer could be sited there too, removing the ever present slip hazard when carrying wet glasses in and out of the foyer. The lounge area then is available for members and hirer's to socialise comfortably.

Whilst this was discussed, it was also suggested that we create some permanent plasterboard dry lining screening for the chairs and tables, with easy access to help improve and cloak the vast size of the Hall – mobile dividing screens could also be purchased to use in the main hall, thus creating somewhat more intimate areas within.

Prior to the meeting closing, the consensus was that, as an outline plan, the above changes would encourage more use by lodge members on a social basis, as well as providing additional options as to the buildings use.

It will now be referred to the Bourne Freemasons Club Committee for discussion at their next meeting.

Nigel Lindley
BFC Secretary

As an aside, W Bro Len Lewis has requested that BFC also consider replacing the door into the temple with a double door, as this will make formal access and exit considerably easier and more in keeping with ritual.

This too should be added to the next meeting agenda.