



Province of East Lancashire

WBro Derek Nelson Thornhill, PSGD
Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge
EComp William John Porter, PGSwdB
Deputy Grand Superintendent in Charge

FREEMASONS' HALL, BRIDGE STREET, MANCHESTER. M3 3BT

web site: www.pgl1.co.uk

secretariat@eastlancsmasons.org.uk Telephone: 0161 832 6256



WBro John R Farrington, PAGDC
Provincial Grand Secretary

EComp John R Farrington
Provincial Grand Scribe E

Circular No: 101

To: Past Provincial Grand Master
Members and Past Members of the Craft and RA Executives
Grand Officers
Lodge Secretaries / Scribes E
Members of the Province on email

25 January 2012

Dear Sir and Brother / Companion,

Freemasons' Hall, Bridge Street, Manchester

Further to the information placed on the website and the presentations that have been given, we write to update you on the present position with regard to the Development.

Over the last six months, the Developers have had extensive discussions with the City Planners and whilst these discussions are nearly at the point when a planning application can be submitted there are still some matters that need to be resolved.

One such issue is that the preference of the City Planners is that both planning applications for the Hall and for the Car Park site, whilst separate applications, should be submitted at the same time. It is anticipated that the Developers will be in a position to submit the application for the Car Park Site, in 3 months, when both applications will be submitted.

We have been advised that this would be the best approach to achieve the most satisfactory overall result and it is necessary to work with the City Planners rather than against them.

Unfortunately, this does mean that there will be a further delay and, therefore, there is insufficient time to obtain planning consent and then complete the tender process before the 1st April.

We believe it is important to limit the disruption to Masonic activity and that it is essential for the internal works only to be carried out in the Masonic closed season.

It has therefore been agreed that this work will not now commence until April 2013 but it may be possible to start external works before that date.

As a consequence, all arrangements for meeting at Salford are deferred for 12 months and business will continue as normal at Freemasons' Hall.

This is disappointing but having regard to the complexity of the arrangements, it is not sensible to proceed until all the proper arrangements have been made.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

WBro Derek N Thornhill
Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge

EComp William J Porter
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