



2024.00060.000 - Honley Library - Extension & Refurbishment

Planning Statement

Shaping places that have
a positive impact

12th April 2024

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Introduction



Nestled in the heart of Honley, a quaint village in the picturesque countryside of West Yorkshire, lies Honley Library, a cherished community hub and a beacon of knowledge and connection. Established to serve as a sanctuary for bibliophiles and seekers of learning alike, this cherished institution has been an integral part of the village's identity for decades.

Honley Library welcomes visitors with its inviting atmosphere, where the scent of well-worn pages mingles with the warmth of shared stories and ideas. Stepping through its doors, patrons are greeted by shelves lined with a diverse array of books spanning genres, from classic literature to contemporary bestsellers, catering to readers of all ages and interests.

Beyond its extensive collection of books, Honley Library serves as a vibrant centre for community engagement, hosting a variety of events and activities that bring neighbours together. From book clubs and author readings to educational workshops and children's storytelling and lego sessions, there's always something enriching happening within its walls.

But perhaps what truly sets Honley Library apart is its dedicated staff, who go above and beyond to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. Whether assisting patrons in finding the perfect read or organizing programs that inspire creativity and lifelong learning, the staff members at Honley Library are committed to enriching the lives of everyone they serve.

In an age where digital distractions abound, Honley Library remains a steadfast advocate for the written word and the power of community. It stands as a testament to the enduring importance of libraries as vital pillars of knowledge, culture, and connection in our ever-evolving world.



History as told by the Friends of Honley Library



Honley Library, opened in 1936, was built with funds donated by the Scottish-American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie. Even before this there had been a long history of enthusiasm for reading by Honley people; records show that the 'Honley Book Club', founded in 1750 and continuing until 1823, was the earliest private circulating library in the Huddersfield district. The building, now so much more than the books it contains, continues to be an iconic and central part of Honley village life. However, it was very nearly lost to the community.

The Friends of Honley Library (FoHL) group was created in 2013 in response to the news that the library was heading towards closure as a result of the financial constraints being faced by Kirklees Council. The group campaigned to keep the service running and, as financial cuts continued, became increasingly involved in the recruitment of volunteers from within the community to ensure that a much-needed service could be maintained.

By 2017, and with further pressures on local government finances, the FoHL submitted an expression of interest in taking over the Honley Library building via a Community Asset Transfer (CAT) and duly approached the Holme Valley Parish Council (HVPC) for support with this. Over the following years, the FoHL Management Group worked alongside the HVPC to put together a comprehensive Business Plan necessitating the completion of numerous strategy and policy documents. These then formed the basis not only for the CAT process but also contributed to an application to the Charities Commission for a change in status.

As Honley Library moves forward into a new era the FoHL group have built up a strong team of local people with a wide range of talents and a commitment to offering many services that sit alongside those of several other local organisations. Volunteers give their time to provide strategic support, promotional work, fund-raising, organising events and activities and working alongside staff from KLS to provide the core library services.





The Existing Library Consists of 3 areas

- Reading area
- Learning area
- Staff back of house

Current Issues

- The library has no formal meeting space
- There are no public WC facilities. The one WC on site is cramped and not to standards.
- The current building has significant damp issues
- No Accessible facilities or parking.



The New Library Extension will consist of

- 81m² footprint approximately 54 % of the existing building 150m² GEA
- A formal meeting area
- Accessible WC facilities
- A dedicated area for a storage area for tables and chairs to make the space flexible.
- A dedicated area for housing cleaning materials for health and safety.
- Catering facilities allow for members of local groups to have meetings and gatherings increasing the appeal and profitability of the project.
- Accessible patio area for secure outdoor play and gathering area during summer months
- New sustainable heating arrangement with the addition of PV panels and an AHU unit.
- The main area of the existing library will remain in its current configuration other than a new entrance door and store to the rear.

Landscaping



AHR has employed an ecologist as part of the biodiversity net gain initiative to create a planting scheme for the project this can be found in the appendix.

The building is also to include a green sedum roof displacing the existing habitat lost in the construction of the extension.



Appearance



The materials from the extension take inspiration from the existing building. The majority of the external face of the extension will be rendered, the existing building is also to be re-rendered as part of the damp works caused by the existing render which has failed.

The base of the extension and the patio area is to sit on a Yorkshire stone plinth to tie in with the existing structure.

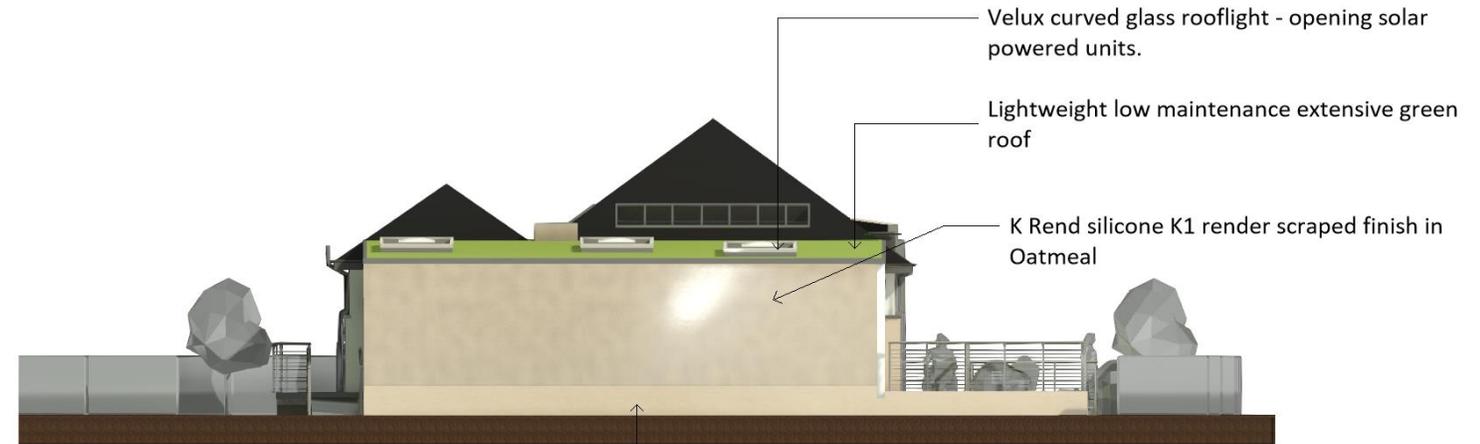
Aluminium windows are to be installed to match the existing materiality of the Crittall windows. The south-facing glazed doors will increase solar gain and reduce heating requirements in winter months, during the summer the doors can be opened increasing the usable space of the library. A film will be used to reduce the effects of solar glare.

The front face of the extension is to be clad in fire-resistant timber effect cladding to highlight the position of the new entrance and create a juxtaposition of the existing.

Millboard Envello Shadow Line+ in Golden Oak
New aluminium doors and windows



2 South Elevation
1 : 100



4 North Elevation
1 : 100

Getting to the Library



Travelling to Honley Library from Huddersfield town and the surrounding area offers several convenient options:

Car: If you prefer to drive, you can reach Honley Library from Huddersfield town by car in approximately 10-15 minutes, depending on traffic. The route typically involves taking the A616 and then turning onto Westgate or Eastgate in Honley, where the library is located. There is parking available nearby for library visitors.

Bus: Several bus services connect Huddersfield town with Honley village. You can check the schedules and routes of local bus operators such as First West Yorkshire or Yorkshire Tiger to find a suitable bus that stops near Honley Library. The journey by bus typically takes around 20-30 minutes, depending on the route and traffic conditions.

Train: Honley train station is not in Honley centre itself, you can take a train from Huddersfield Railway Station to Honley station which is approx. a 19 min walk from the library sited northeast edge of the village. The train journey from Huddersfield usually takes around 5-10 minutes.

Walking or Cycling: For those who enjoy walking or cycling, Honley Village is within a reasonable distance from Huddersfield town, and the route offers scenic views of the countryside. The walk or cycle ride typically takes around 30-45 minutes, depending on your pace and the exact starting point in Huddersfield.

These travel options provide flexibility for visitors coming from Huddersfield town and the surrounding area to easily access Honley Library and enjoy its offerings.

