



## Environmental Policy

### Statement

ESCH Ltd aims to minimise any adverse impact on the environment by improving the Hall building and carefully regulating its use. Retaining the Hall for community use has in itself prevented the unwelcome environmental impact of demolition and rebuilding, followed by increased traffic and parking congestion, which replacement with a housing development would inevitably have brought. It is intended to retain the frontage and the building in its present form so that the visual environment is not damaged by the Hall's refurbishment.

### Sustainable Travel Plan

Measures have been taken to combat the effect of the increase in footfall due to greater use of the building. The majority of Hall users are from the Prestonville area and its immediate environs, most of whom are able to walk or cycle to the Hall. Cycle racks have been provided. All Hall hirers are asked to encourage users from further afield to use public transport rather than cars: there is a bus route less than 5 minutes away in Dyke Road and the train station is approximately 15 minutes' walk away. Car travel is further deterred by the high cost of parking in Exeter Street. Regular user surveys will record modes of travel.

### Noise Reduction

Conditions in the hirers' agreement include limiting use of the Hall to reasonable hours, setting acceptable levels for music and asking hirers to ensure their users or guests arrive and depart quietly and quickly. Persistent disregard for these conditions will result in the termination of the contract of the hirer concerned. Installation of secondary glazing and incorporation of insulating material into the new roof has greatly reduced noise emanating from inside the building. See also the separate Noise Management Policy.

### Sustainable Refurbishment Measures

Completed actions include reduction of heat loss by draught-proofing and insulation, energy saving devices such as switch-off signs and people-activated lighting, using grey water from a rain harvesting tank to flush the toilets. Proposed actions include installation of a carbon neutral heating system and removal of the wasteful urinals currently in use. Recycling has been implemented, waste minimised and properly disposed of and ecological cleaning materials and office supplies used wherever possible and appropriate. ESCH Ltd has undertaken energy audits and is consulting architects and green building specialists on ways to make the Hall as environmentally friendly as possible.

### Consultation and Conclusion

ESCH Ltd will widen the consultation to include neighbours and others with an interest or expertise in the area. A detailed action plan and management system will be drawn up and implemented. Adherence to the 10 Principles of One Planet Living will be considered. Management, staff and Hall users will be made aware of the environmental policy. ESCH's intention is to enhance people's living environment in this densely populated area by providing a high quality community facility sensitive to all aspects of environmental concern.

