

A CRITICAL SELF-APPRAISAL OF THE FOXHOLES LIVE PROJECT

This paper would describe how the management within our live project is, explore whether it is successful or not and give the reason of it. The site of our live project is in Foxholes village. The foxholes village is located 9.5 miles north of Driffield and 9.5 miles south-west of Scarborough. And the village just flanks the B1249 which connects Driffield and Scarborough. Our task was to help the villagers to find a suitable place for a location of the new village hall within the village. For achieving this goal, we did a series of investigations and analysis of the feasibilities of the potential sites by successful teamwork and communication which was not easy to carry on because of the different nationalities of our team members.

- **Development of the brief throughout the project**

Considering generate the brief more suitable for the clients, we had first field trip in Foxholes village. Through the sites visit and interview with the clients which is the village committee, we knew better of the village and the need from the inhabitants.

In Foxholes village there are three potential sites for a new village hall. Site A which has the current village hall located in the center of the village as well as flank the B1249. The current village hall which is to be found in a poor quality could be either sold for the funding of a new village hall or renovated to be a new village hall. Site B is located on the hill in north-west of the village and got a church within it. The St. Mary's church which could be renovated is the potential new village hall within site B. Site C is completely a empty plot located on the south of the village. It has a beautiful pond within this site and a large number of villager want voting for it to be the location of a new village hall. Though discussion within our team, our brief for this live project was to create a criteria for the new village hall in its social, economic and environmental aspects, at the same time design several potential proposal of each sites.

- **Briefing process, and how this might have been improved**

By considering the social, economic and environmental aspects of the new village hall, we decided several targets to achieve which included material for the construction of the new village hall, what kinds of energy and power could be used, and the potential proposals for each sites.

We first consider the potential materials for the construction. Because the village hall committee has little funding for a new village hall, every money spend on the construction should be in low price. So we decided what efficient materials could be used and search for the local supplier to reduce the delivery charge. After talking to villagers about what they wanted from the new village hall, we developed a list of requirements for the new village hall and what activities the village envisages. Though the direction of the requirement list, we developed three proposals for each site and point out what are the advantages and

disadvantages within each design. In terms of the potential energy and power, we analysis several energy types such as solar energy, electric energy, fuel energy as well as wind energy, and apply them on each proposal in terms of the different designs. Finally, we compared each sites by considering their social aspects, access and parking, views and visibility, energy, funding and life cost, come up with a conclusion that Site C is the best option of the location for a new village hall.

- **Group working – how successful this was and how it might have been improved**

In our live project, each team member contributed greatly to the team with successful teamwork. Because there are three sites within the Foxholes village need to be explored, we divided into three groups of people with each group focusing on one specific site. I am in the site A group which had three members. We developed our specific brief for this site as a group and also analysed the current situation of site A. After that, each of us designed one proposal with the information we carried out, applied the materials, indicated the energy use and analysis the advantages and disadvantages. Finally we discussed these proposals and shared our visions on them.

There are 10 members in our team of live project. Different from other groups which are all consist of local students, our group is more like a multinational union, with members from British, China and Singapore. Every country has different culture and different languages. How the communication among us is important. Because the project is in British, Chinese and Singaporean students should try their best to understand the British culture, to apply their skills within the context of British. The local students should be more patient and tolerant with international students. As a result, our team member did very well on that.

- **Communication strategies: methods of communication with the client and stakeholders, and how these may have been improved**

We had met the clients twice in the live project. At the beginning of the live project we met our client in the current Foxholes village hall. The aim of this visit is to research the site and collect some useful information. Two members of the village hall committee attended the meeting with us, and shared a lot of information about the village and the village hall from its history, evolution, environment and social aspects, etc. However, in first meeting, we just talk to two representatives of the village hall committee and don't really get the other villager to be involved in the communication. This drives us to the situation with not completely understand the circumstance.

In the second meeting with the clients, we invited villagers who live in Foxholes to attend our presentation of the analysis we developed. In this event, we cooperated with village hall committee to hold a function about the new village hall. We did presentation about our analysis, showed the materials which would be used in the new village hall, operated some activities with the villagers and talked with them about the design. It was really successful

with the second meeting which I think really get people involved and as well as being easy to get some feedback. With the feedback we collected that day, we development our final output more efficiently.

- **What lessons may be learnt from the live project that might be valuable to professional architectural practice and via versa**

We learnt a lot from the experience of this live project. Through the process of a project, we should always keep in touch with the client. Keeping in mind what the clients' wishes is extremely important. It will drive to the fact whether we would come up with a good design. Moreover, we should well organize the project, such as the design of the time table, division of work between team members and collaboration with people who contribute to the project, etc. in addition, good communication could be also very important. As same as we have different nationalities' members within the group, we could also encounter the situation of working with architects or engineers from the other countries because of the globalization. They have different background knowledge and background. So we should be patient to work with them, to help them to understand the situation more quickly and finish the project in a more efficient way.