Student Centre engagement portal content

This content was originally shared on the dedicated student centre portal site. None of the wording has been changed. The images have been removed to reduce the size of the file but are all still available. The facts and figures were accurate when this site was produced and live between April 2022 and January 2023.

Portal questions and responses

Section - Design for new Student Centre Agreed

Discussion related to this section (this can no longer be added to)

Response
There is a lot of consultation still to happen, especially around the impact of the build as we know the disruption will be considerable. We understand that current students in their later years will only feel the impact and not see the benefit however we really welcome their input into what the building needs to be to make the biggest difference.

lorna.thornley commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
The building has thought about everything except the impact the central build is going to have on existing students - students in the History, Linguistics, History of Art departments specifically will face significant interruption, as will anyone using the library space, Alcuin kitchen or courtyard. None of these students have been correctly consulted, as many were unaware of the effect this construction may have, as well as the very surface level fact that one of the most scenic parts of campus will be blocked from view, which is rich considering outdoor space for wellbeing was sited as a major benefit of the new building, yet current students will not be able to access this benefit, this will be reserved for people who have no say in the consultation process.

ima523 commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
Personally I don't believe that this is the best use of resources for the university. The chosen area already has a range of buildings and is a bustling and active space. It does not matter how 'environmentally friendly' the building is - it is less sustainable than the continued use of existing buildings. The proposed design is very space inefficient, and will only serve to break apart the campus from a cohesive whole into the fractured buildings that is seen now in East Campus. Perhaps the university should consider investing in making East a more lively community, building new accommodation, refurbishing old accommodation or building a student centre somewhere less destructive to the actually iconic look and feel of the campus. Furthermore parking cannot simply be removed without thought of alternatives, people
moving out will find it especially difficult. Reducing car dependency is about providing better alternatives, not simply removing options which will decrease accessibility.

**at1652** commented 6 months ago

**Question/comment**
As part of the yoga society, the only major requirement we would appreciate from the new building would be a large flat floor space! Our classes attract a lot of attention and currently, we struggle to find a suitable area that is quiet and accessible to all. As a society which aims to promote stress relief and mindfulness to students, this new area would be crucial to us.

**ena510** commented 7 months ago

**Question/comment**
What is the provision for cycle parking? I'm sure there will be some, but it needs to be a lockable shed with CCTV to be of any real use to anyone. Also shower facilities accessible to staff and students.

**dave.williamson** commented 7 months ago

**Question/comment**
Would be fantastic to have designated society and media space that doesn't have asbestos. Societies keep university's alive without creating new spaces and supporting them by talking to them before making plans would be greatly appreciated!

**Msr533** commented 7 months ago

**Question/comment**
Please ensure each student media group is given its own exclusive space, designed in consultation with those groups to ensure their needs are met. York's student media groups do amazing work producing professional coverage of life at the university and have more complex and specific requirements for their spaces than other societies. A generic space that fails to meet these requirements will negatively affect the quality and quantity of their output.

**caf555** commented 7 months ago

**Question/comment**
I'm in three student media groups, and I'm keenly aware that our requirements are very different to most other student groups on campus (soundproofing, servers, cabling etc.) - and I'm disappointed to see that none of that features in the proposed plans. The only way we can have suitable spaces for us is by discussing the plans with us, otherwise we'll have completely unsuitable space (especially since we'll likely be expected to move in there). We're more than happy to discuss further, but as it stands the proposal is wholly inadequate for us.

**mp1423** commented 7 months ago

**Question/comment**
Given the nature of a lot of societies and the protection of equipment for those societies, student societies need assigned spaces they're able to consult on the design of to operate. Student Media Groups need specified spaces. The different groups have different requirements, we can't be lumped as one thing. It would also be nice to have information on
how societies will be accessible? Flat floors and bottom floor priority??
em1757 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
Student societies, especially media societies, need flat floor space and exclusive designated specific spaces to create student media content. Storage is also a necessity for amount of kit societies such as YSTV need. We need to be consulted about spaces used, for example a studio space we have access to 24/7. An arrangement with YSTV is necessary for this to fit to our requirements. As well as this, a nightclub area would also be beneficial (looking at other Russel group university facilities for example university’s such as Manchester and Sheffield have the academy and leadmill, especially with the problems around nightlife safety in York this would benefit the majority of the student body). Scm563 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
As a member of YSTV and URY, we need a dedicated, exclusive area to have, in addition, we need to be consulted on what a studio needs as we have many specific needs in order to operate, we need to know what is going on in our area.
llb1952 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
As a member of student media in regards to this new student Centre, we need our own exclusive dedicated spaces for each groups that we can personally be consulted on.
mam642 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
As part of YSTV, it would be great for student media to get their own spaces and the societies to be consolated to create the best space possible for everyone
eh1597 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
Student Media groups need exclusive designated studio spaces and they need to be consulted about them.
lrg529 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
A dedicated set of spaces for student media groups like studios for YSTV and URY would be great
trm522 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
As part of YSTV we could do with exclusive space
at1743 commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
we need exclusive designated spaces for student media!!!
mfs540 commented 6 months ago
Question/comment
The building itself looks cool, not sure how it fits with the rest of the architectural style of campus though. Also very little mention of student societies or media, how will dedicated space for them be assigned and built in? Not sure what this building achieves that isn't already done by other campus buildings otherwise to be honest.

smr555 commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
Hi there, As a keen member of URY, YSTV and CHMS, I am intrigued about the plans for student media and performance spaces in this new centre. I am concerned from a media point of view after hearing rumours that the space for student media is very small. Of course these are rumours, but if I could urge the university to consider this carefully as the current student media is one of the best student medias in the country. We do not want to loose our awards and reputation (and successful alumni) due to a downgrade in space, equipment and care. So please, if you are considering our comments and working on the designs, ensure the building has a sufficient space for all the student medias and please deliberate with the student media groups before confirming plans with developers. Finally, I think it is important for creative performance societies (such as dance, CHMS, cheerleading etc) have a studio to work in. This would be based off of a dance studio and would provide a more professional training for our students. Furthermore, a performance space for students to showcase this (one that is better than the antiquated Dixon Studio and Drama Barn) will not only encourage our creative students, but introduce more students to performance. Both of my above points give students the opportunity to make memories in their student experience, but also practise new potential career paths. I have been blessed to have the incredible studios of URY which has shaped me to want to become a professional radio DJ, it would be tragic if the university didn’t listen to current students views when building this and could potentially disuade young people away from incredible opportunities and new career choices.

Hb1422 commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
I am really pleased that the University is committed to this project, putting students at the heart of campus. However, as Station Manager of University Radio York, I need to voice some concern. I am confused as some people have told me the plan is for URY to move into this new building, yet the plans do not appear to demonstrate how this would be possible. For URY to move into a new building, we'd need dedicated rooms - at least the size of our current space. We need two studio spaces, an office space and a separate storage space. Because we're a radio station, we also require sound proofing. I would LOVE it if we can get URY into this space. It will be brilliant for our society and the building. Having a radio station will help make the student centre feel like THE place to be on campus, and from our point of view it boosts our visibility. Being able to book flat floor spaces may be useful for our society occasionally, but not for our regular operations and output.

wdbk500 commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
It would be great to learn more about how sustainability will be incorporated into the planning, design and building of the site. The information currently available online is a bit
summary, and lacking in detail (and data!)

**freya.sierhuis** commented 6 months ago

Response
Just to clarify the final decision on what the internal spaces will be used for haven't been made yet but there will definitely be a number of flexible flat floor spaces that are suitable for lots of different uses. It is unlikely these will be dedicated to JUST clubs and societies as this is a building for all of our students not just those involved in clubs. It will be located to the east of Market Square opposite the library. Whilst not everyone will like the design, the university wants to provide a building where students can easily access support and help from the university as well as the student unions all in one place as well as space to take part in events, relax or just chill. There is no other space on campus big enough to offer all of this. Surely no one can argue that will benefit everyone and add to your student experience?

**lorna.thornley** commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
What about the space for societies, including storage space, media and tech areas and flat floor space (it'd be great if we could have a mirrored rehearsal space) that students actually will use and need?

**Cr1183** commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
Imaoo why is it so ugly, actually embarrassed to go to this uni

**spgp502** commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
Want to ask where the building will be located and which buildings will be removed to make space?

**Tt792** commented 6 months ago

**Section – Introduction – Help shape our new Student Centre**

**Discussion related to this section (this can no longer be added to)**

Question/comment
This conversation should have been more open from the start, and quite frankly, an instagram like does not show enough. why has this conversation started after the design, would it have not been significantly easier to ask groups what they wanted before the designing process, to avoid issues such as YSTV studios being convoluted with a nightclub (which is ridiculous and clearly highlights that those involved in the planning have no real experience of student media, and haven't bothered to ask the people this is going to impact the most) and entire academic departments being uprooted

**ima523** commented 6 months ago

Response
Contrary to the view below this building is not universally hated at all and there have been many hundreds of positive comments and 'likes' for the design. The final uses for the inside spaces have yet to be decided but you are right in that they need to be able to work together
and this cannot be a building where everything that everyone would like to see is crammed in. The building has strong eco credentials (it uses reconstituted stone for one, not just concrete) more of which we will share in coming days.

**lorna.thornley** commented 7 months ago

Question/comment

Dedicated spaces for student groups that aren't just office spaces please and thank you

**aht514** commented 7 months ago

Question/comment

This building seems to be universally hated and there is no strong argument for its establishment. Why do we not use the money to make older buildings more accessible or inclusive instead? How is a Nightclub supposed to function alongside student media? Why is it all concrete none of this seems eco friendly or visually pleasing.

**ncc531** commented 7 months ago

Response

This building is a fundamental part of what we need to provide the best possible student experience going forward for generations to come and is, therefore, a priority. Our vision for York encompasses bold and progressive steps with the re-imagining of our physical campus to benefit our student cohort, the Student Centre is central to this. This building is intended to be a landmark building for students similar to what most universities have as their student union building. Specifically a place where all students can relax and engage outside their classes. York has never had a dedicated building like this that has been designed and built with this at its core. It aims to transform the student experience providing opportunities for all of our students in one place. Whilst we have not yet decided the exact breakdown of the internal spaces, we are absolutely clear what this building is for and what it aims to achieve: an enhanced student experience positively impacting on well-being and mental health.

**lorna.thornley** commented 7 months ago

Question/comment

I agree wholly with what aine.sheil has said. I've read through all the information you've provided here and I'm afraid I just don't get it. Why do we need this new building? What purpose will it serve (it sounds like you don't even know yourselves)? How is this an effective use of funding when the student body are telling you they have other priorities (such as insufficient accommodation)? To me it sounds as though you want to redevelop market square for aesthetic purposes and to be able to better market the university. You don't know what this building will contain or be used for so how can you possibly justify that it meets a need. If there are areas where existing facilities on campus fall short I can almost guarantee renovating existing buildings will be much more economical and sustainable than demolishing and rebuilding market square, with disruption expected to last for years (for some students, their entire degree).

**spgp502** commented 7 months ago

Question/comment

Why are we being asked to comment after the tendering process has taken place? I'm not interested in helping to choose sofas; I'm interested in a very open and frank discussion
about the priorities of the university. That means being part of a discussion about how large amounts of money get spent, rather than being part of a conversation about soft furnishings.

aine.sheil commented 8 months ago

Section - Poll

What would you like most from this new space? (please select a maximum of three choices)*

Discussion related to this section (this can no longer be added to)

Question/comment
Put out a wider consultation with a better interface than this one, allow students to be involved in the consultation and we will be a lot happier

ima523 commented 6 months ago

Question/comment
Come on, societies need a designated space to work as a society without it being at risk. We need space for a new student television studio that only YSTV have access to, that doesn't have asbestos. These student media groups also need designated storage space. You have to consult these student groups to have separate spaces and cater to what they need to survive- the very things that keep the university alive.

Msr533 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
Please ensure that covered walkways are retained and incorporated in the final design to facilitate movement around campus in all weathers. Looking forward to seeing the finalised plans!

stephanie.jesper commented 7 months ago

Section - Frequently Asked Questions

Discussion related to this section (this can no longer be added to)

Response
As we have said, the internal layout has not yet been finalised and there will be more opportunities to give your feedback over the coming weeks. Realistically this building cannot possibly contain everything that everybody would want, it is only one building on a huge campus and all of our students have different wants and needs. However it does aim to offer a single space where students can get help if they need it, take part in events or clubs and societies, relax or study. No where else on campus can offer this. The building aims to complement what colleges offer not detract from it.

lorna.thornley commented 7 months ago
Question/comment
I see no mention of anything regarding student media within these designs at all, despite us clearly stating our minimum requirements for what would be needed in a new student centre. It seems there is no specific purpose for this building at all - instead just spending a large amount of money on another building that fails to offer anything else to it’s students. Curious to know whether student needs like those set out by student media will be taken into consideration when finalising the design?

mam642 commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
What will the impact be on existing college facilities (dining / bar / common room etc)?

stephanie.jesper commented 7 months ago

Question/comment
What will happen to the current YUSU space by the Roger Kirk Centre? Will that remain, or will everything move into this new building?

suzy.harrison commented 7 months ago