



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Provost and Vice-Principal
Professor Adam Tickell
BSc PhD AcSS

17 June 2015

Dear neighbour

Following my last letter in March when I explained that following the severe fire at the Manor House, the University had been left with no choice but to take down substantial parts of the building due to its dangerous state, I wanted to write to you again to update you on what has happened with the building over the past few weeks.

You may have noticed in recent days that more demolition has been taking place at the Manor House following a pause while we removed some hazardous material from the site. Sadly, as we have taken down some parts of the structure, the sections underneath have also been proven to be unstable and unsafe, and have needed to be removed.

The engineers who have been engaged to advise on the structure are regularly reviewing the position and anticipate that the majority of the demolition will have been carried out by the end of the month and we will then be in a position to look at our next steps.

Despite the need to demolish the majority of the structure, it remains the intention of the University that the building will be rebuilt to mirror the external appearance of the original Manor House. Manor House was bought by the University from the Cadbury family and used as a student residence until 2007. It was not a nationally listed building as recognised by the Secretary of State but was one of 441 locally listed buildings in Birmingham.

When the fire occurred, the building was awaiting planning approval from Birmingham City Council to be sensitively converted into flats as part of a wider redevelopment of the site. This planning application has now been revived and includes provision for the rebuilding of Manor House.

The University is saddened that the fire has led to the substantial demolition of the building but the extent of damage caused was such that the building posed an unacceptable risk to the safety of workers on site, and, of course, the safety of our employees, contractors and the public remains our number one priority.

If you have any queries about the site please contact our dedicated email address, manorhouse@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Adam Tickell'.

Professor Adam Tickell