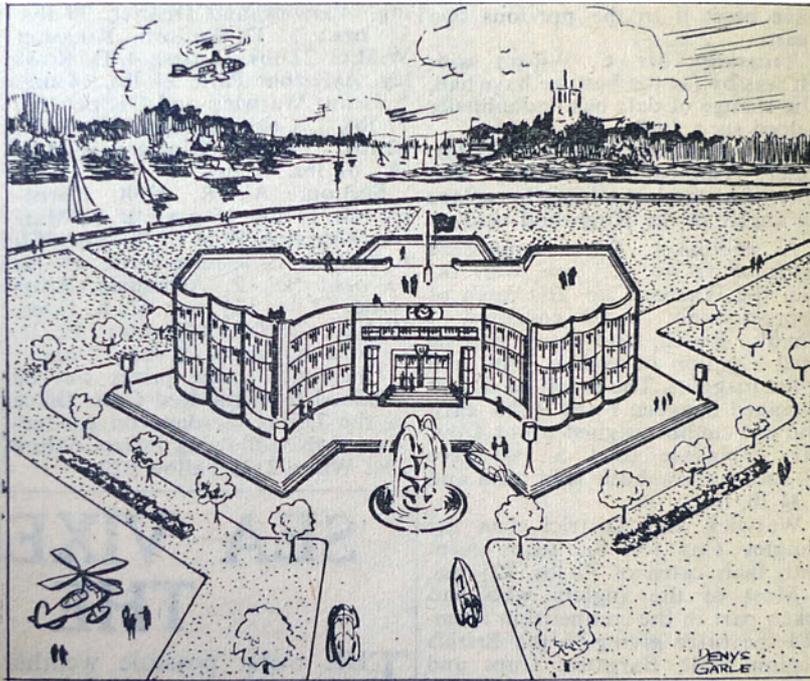


Trader's Idea for New Town Hall

Christchurch Times Sept. 8, 1961



This drawing by Mr. Denys Garle, Mundeford, shows Mr. Goodenough's design for the new Town Hall. Mr. Goodenough's plan initially is for a single storey building with an access road from Stanpit.

STAUNCH in his support for the development of Stanpit Marsh, Mr. W. A. Goodenough, managing director of the Christchurch Construction Company, this week told the Christchurch Times of a new idea to develop part of the land—and to solve the burning problem of where to put the new Town Hall. He thought his proposed site and design would be "in keeping with the Priory." He explained: "Foremost in my mind was the fact that the ratepayers are against the original scheme because of the cost and although I am in favour of a new Town Hall I also realise that the ratepayers really need to be considered. "With that in mind I designed a building of such a character that it will stand in its own grounds and for generations to come people will enjoy it and the two rivers that flow by and the wonderful view of the Priory Church in the distance."

25 YEAR PROGRAMME

He said that it was a 25 year programme with a futuristic outlook which has to be taken into account when considering the scheme.

The front entrance would be from Stanpit where the Council has already made up the land, and the land to the rear of the Town Hall would be part of a natural filling project already undertaken by the Council. When the filling process was completed the whole area could be laid out with grass or flower beds.

The size of the requirements of the Council at the present moment to incorporate all their needs is approximately 16,000 sq. ft. and the size of the building which Mr. Goodenough proposes would be 250ft. by 80ft.

Mr. Goodenough said all their requirements could be provided on the ground floor. "With as much glass in the building as possible it would make this building extremely light and very pleasant for all who work in it and to the ratepayers it would mean a saving of no small degree in electricity bills during the winter months.

UNINTERRUPTED VIEWS

"Every room would have an uninterrupted view from all angles and the Council chamber facing the Priory Church would be worthy of the Councillors' distinction in serving the Borough of Christchurch.

"The foundations could be made strong enough to have a second storey as the town grew and the requirements of the extra staff could be met.

He told us that for the foundations below approximately 3ft. there was shingle and gravel seams which was better than Bournemouth's sandy cliffs taking high density flats.

Mr. Goodenough pointed out that there were bound to be people only too willing to decry the idea but, "From the ratepayers' point of view this is a long term money saving project."

COST

We asked Mr. Goodenough what he estimated the cost would be and he thought it would be reasonable. He pointed out that the Council already owned the land on which it would be sited; there would be no compensation costs to pay; the original Town Hall, in High Street, could remain; the majority of the new hall would be built of glass and would be standing in its own grounds and would not overlook or be overlooked by old buildings.

The Town Hall would be something that could be enjoyed by future generations and not merely the present generation. The borough boundary ended at Barrack Road, and he did not think that the present site in the High Street was the centre of the Borough.

"There are plenty of people who will rush into print to turn this idea down, these are the backward people, but for the forward looking people this is something they can get their teeth into by analysing it with care.

"But whatever way this is discussed this type of idea and the discussions that will arise from it will show that the town is thinking and interested and wide awake to its responsibilities for tomorrow."