

## 33 Caledonian Road – Community online Q&A

This is a summary of an online Q&A event, held on 1 July 2021 for local people to find out more about the IOP's plans for 33 Caledonian Road. We recorded the event and have produced this summary for anyone who was unable to attend. It covers the main presentations and responses to questions submitted in advance or through the chat function.

The consultation remains open until 16 July. If you have any questions, please contact the project team at [33cr@iop.org](mailto:33cr@iop.org), and you can find more information on our website at [iop.org/33cr](http://iop.org/33cr)

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## Introduction to the Institute of Physics (IOP)

### Paul Hardaker, CEO

The IOP is the physical society for the UK and the Republic of Ireland. We were established in 1874. The main mission for the IOP is to advance physics as a discipline and to help and support the education and professional development of those who come into physics. Whether in education or as a career.

We are a charity. We are funded through a range of sources, but largely we are funded by our scientific publishing business which publishes scientific journals.

The IOP focuses on diversity and inclusion in physics, we work with people from different backgrounds and communities to show the value physics has to offer them and to help them in their studies and think about physics as a career.

We have a campaign, Limit Less, which looks at influencing those who work with and support younger people – to help break down the stereotypes which limit people engaging with physics in education or as a career. Because of that we work quite a lot in schools, colleges and universities. We also help and support teachers, we work with government to advise what should be on the physics curriculum.

We also work with apprenticeships and technicians, there are lots of technical routes in physics.

We foster public debate about how science and technology can be used to address the challenges we face as a society. Our new podcast series, Looking Glass, will be looking at the Green Economy and climate change.

## The IOP's ambitions for 33 Caledonian Road

### Paul Hardaker

We want to grow and develop our education programmes. We want to make the space available for schools, colleges and community groups to learn more about physics, running experiments and building items using technical equipment. We hope this will further progression into technical routes and apprenticeships. There is a large demand for skilled technical roles in the UK and Ireland and we are keen to encourage people to explore those career opportunities.

There are three floors in the building. Two will be handed over to be creative learning areas with state-of-the-art technology and workshop tools so people can come in and get hands-on. And one will be a desk-space training facility for apprenticeships and technicians.

It's important for us to preserve and add to the streetscape, we want to restore the original façade as much as possible and preserve it.

We haven't yet submitted a planning application yet but expect to do so in the next month or so. Therefore, the build will not start until end of this year or beginning of next. This will take 9-12 months, so we are expecting the space could open at the end of 2022 or beginning of 2023.

## Designs, sustainability and materials

### Harish Ratna, Project Director for TateHindle architects

The site is located on the edge of the Kings Cross redevelopment area. It is at the junction of Caledonian Road and Balfe Street. The building is a flat-iron shape and is a key focal point when you approach the building from the south.

The entrance for 33 Caledonian Road will be via the existing 37 Caledonian Road. The two spaces will feel like one, allowing the facilities in each to be shared.

The ground floor will be a makerspace with work benches and equipment, it will also have a platform lift to the basement and other floors and an accessible toilet. The existing windows with the higher sills will be retained, giving privacy for children working in the area, but allowing plenty of light inside too. The first floor is also a makerspace. The current building will be extended slightly to infill the 'rear' fragmented side of the building on Balfe Street.

The staircase within the main building will allow access to the upper floors and basement area. The basement will provide a cloakroom and equipment and furniture storage.

The second floor will be extended by completing the 'triangle' of the building, it will house apprentice teaching space. New windows will be put in on the Balfe Street side to allow natural light to reach this space. The space will be reached by the existing second floor of 37 Caledonian Road, and therefore access will be via the staircases and lifts in 37 Caledonian Road.

The top floor (third floor), will have a new extension to complete the triangle shape again, where currently a blank wall exists. The wing will be glazed and will reflect the shape of the original building. The space will be a seminar / teaching space.

A digital model of the space showed all floors, the access point on 37 Caledonian Road and the buildings' 'triangle' or 'flat-iron' shape. This view also showed the eyebrow on the roof edge of the

third floor which provides solar shading. And, that the roof space not used by the extension will be a 'green roof'.

Sustainability features of the main building will continue into 33 Caledonian Road. There are zinc chimneys to provide ventilation. There are 'PV' panels on the roof to provide power to the building. There are blue and green roofs to mitigate against localised flooding too. In the basement we have bore-hole cooling and heating – these are piles which have been driven down 60m into the earth which have a heat pump to provide heating and cooling to the space.

Some of the materiality of the building was then highlighted. Brickwork and detailing will match closely the original where it is added. The ventilation chimneys will be made from zinc. The green roof will be made from sedum, this provides biodiversity opportunities and prevents heat build-up.

The building will also use timber in a lot of the finishes and structure to reduce the amount of carbon in the building. The zinc in the chimneys will be recycled zinc.

## Q&A

### **Can you outline the project timelines?**

The planning application, we're hoping will go in as soon as possible, no later than September. The application will then take a few months to be considered. So, construction won't begin until early 2022. It's quite a complicated site as we want to preserve the facade, it will take between nine and 12 months. So we're hoping to open the site in early 2023.

### **What steps are you taking to reduce disruption for residents when the work takes place?**

When we appoint the main contractor for the redevelopment, we will set out in the contract that they will manage noise, traffic, and any dust particles. There are also clearly defined times set by Islington Council for when construction takes place, no work on Sundays for example.

### **How will local properties be affected by deprivation of light?**

We're not adding much to the top of the building, and because it's in the middle of the street, set back from Balfe Street and Caledonian Road, the impact on daylight and sunlight is marginal, any impact is unnoticeable.

### **Will extra visitors affect traffic and what are you offering for visitor parking?**

There will be no parking, we encourage travel to the site by public transport. From time to time, we have deliveries and will time these to be in less disruptive parts of the day. During the construction phase, we will submit a plan to the council to show how we will manage any construction traffic to keep disruption to a minimum.

### **Will we have to pay to come and use the space? How will booking work?**

Our existing building has three floors available for public use. We don't charge for our events and we will carry over this philosophy to 33 Caledonian Road. For any booking, including schools and community groups, there will be a point of local coordination for them to book to come and use the space. The space will be free to use.

### **What will you do to minimise the carbon footprint of the build and building?**

A key element is retention of existing materials rather than sourcing new ones. We will keep the main façade, though any elements taken out, we will recycle as much as possible. For 37 Caledonian Road, we recycled 98.5% of the material taken off the site, and we plan to do this again for 33 Caledonian Road.

The second aspect is the materials we use for the build, as much as possible will be recycled and we will consider where materials are coming from, that they are responsibly sourced and have a low carbon footprint. Double glazing and sustainable energy sources will also help to make the building operationally sustainable.

**Can you tell us more about what you will be doing in the building when it's finished? Which age groups will you be working with?**

Having different floors allows us to be quite flexible with the age groups, we are hoping to work with primary and secondary schools and further education colleges. We will work closely with Islington schools and colleges to make them aware of the space and provide access to them.

The building will also be made available to schools across the UK and Ireland, where we hope this can build partnerships between these schools and those that are in the borough of Islington.