

Notes on a Meeting to discuss Proposed New Canteen and Lecture Theatre at the Rutherford Laboratory on 12th February, 1960

Present:-

Dr. T. G. Pickavance
Mr. J. C. Louth
Dr. J. A. V. Willis
Miss. J. McVean
Mr. M. Snowden
Mr. H. N. Peskett
Mr. E. R. Haynes
Mr. J. K. Thornton
Mr. G. L. Cooper

The following was agreed:

1. The principal aim was to provide a canteen at the Rutherford Laboratory by September 1961. In addition to the staff at the Laboratory (estimated eventually to be 650), the canteen would also be required to serve the MRC (200) and the AERE Reactor School (20).
2. A less urgent consideration was the provision of a lecture theatre to seat 350, but since it was desirable to plan this either integral with or in close proximity to the canteen both requirements should be considered together.
3. In the light of the number of staff who would have access to the canteen Miss. McVean estimated that provision should be made to provide 300 lunches/day in two sittings. The main canteen (cafeteria service), should therefore have a seating capacity of 150. There should also be a Director's dining room (waitress service) with a seating capacity of 50 for senior staff and V.I.P. visitors. There would not be sufficient staff to justify providing a separate waitress service as an alternative to the cafeteria. A lounge should be provided to seat at least 50 people, with tea and coffee bars.
4. The seating arrangement within the main canteen should be sufficiently widely spaced to allow extra seating capacity to be provided when required, e.g. when large conferences are held. It should also be possible to link up with the Director's dining room on such occasions. It would not be necessary to have a waitress service for meals served to visitors to conferences. A system of meal tickets would be instituted on such occasions to hasten the speed of service.
5. Every effort should be made to reduce background noise to a minimum. For example the main canteen might be divided by movable partitions into bays seating 20 to 30 people. Staff would be expected to return their own dirty crockery etc., to a central disposal point. It would be desirable to have the canteen licensed for the sale of alcoholic drinks and the question of obtaining the necessary licence should be looked into.
6. It was agreed that the South East corner of the Laboratory would be the best site for the canteen.
7. A.E.R.E. would be asked to run the canteen on behalf of the Institute, at least initially but the possibility of this service being withdrawn at some future date could not be ruled out, and the building should be designed with this in mind. (e.g. separate stores and ancillary buildings should be provided to render the canteen self-supporting).
8. Snacks, if not full meals, would be required outside normal working hours when Nimrod became operational. These should be supplied from the canteen via the mess rooms.
9. In addition to the canteen and lecture theatre it would be useful to have additional facilities incorporated in the same building such as several small conference rooms, lounges, foyers. The CERN buildings were quoted as

a good example of what was required.

10. The architects were asked to report back to the Committee when they have completed the first rough plans.

G. L. Cooper.