

THE ROYAL BELL

The historic building and current condition



1. Main Building

This range was rebuilt in 1898 on the site of the earlier hotel of 1666. The architect Ernest Newton specified these high status red bricks for this frontage with a traditional red 'Wrotham' tiled roof. Iconic features of this facade include the large painted timber modillion cornice, the three double height projecting window bays with decorative pargetting, the classical granite entrance surround and intricate historic iron gates to the carriage passage.

2. Ballroom

This external view shows how the ballroom sits in the mid part of the site. The large historic timber framed and leaded light windows will allow excellent natural light into this versatile space. Buff toned stock brickwork was widely used to the rear of this building as it was a cheaper alternative to the high status red bricks to the high street frontage. Note also the use of slate tiles to the rear roofscape in contrast to the pricier clay tiles to the front.

3. The rear yard

A passage from the high street leads to a yard at the rear of the site. Historically this would have been the route used by horse and carriage to access the stabling facilities. The stables are visible in this image to the rear of the yard. A fire in recent years has sadly damaged parts of the stable and hayloft beyond repair. We propose the careful dismantling of the stables and the re-use of this redundant yard area to house a new hotel extension.



The original main staircase survives at The Royal Bell. We propose the careful repair and restoration of this grand stair and the detailed balustrade which survives behind modern boarding. Also visible in this image is the intricate glass mosaic floor to the lobby. This is to be carefully cleaned and restored to its former glory.



This internal view of the ballroom shows the boarded up minstrel's gallery and projecting balcony. We would like to re-instate the lost balustrade and re-open the gallery as a heritage feature. Also visible in this image is the railing of a large void in the floor which was created in recent years. We propose that the ballroom is restored to its original design and that the missing floor is reinstated.



These photographs were taken in the main function room to the front of the building at first floor level. The ornate plasterwork to the ceiling survives in its entirety in this space and forms one of the key heritage assets of this building. This bright and light filled space has fantastic views over the historic heart of Bromley.



A fire in recent years has seriously damaged parts of the stable and hayloft.



A number of rooms to the third floor have suffered from water ingress from the main roof which is in need of repair. Luckily many of these rooms still feature the original cast iron fire surrounds.



This photo shows one of the second floor rooms to the front of the main building. Our proposal shows these rooms carefully and sympathetically transformed into hotel bedrooms in keeping with the original use of these spaces.



A fallen section of ornate plasterwork lays in the boarded up minstrel's gallery which once overlooked the Ballroom. We would like to restore and re-open this gallery as a heritage feature of the hotel and Ballroom.