

Ambition House



A new community hub providing bespoke,
cost-efficient amenity space for Ambition
Lawrence Weston



The new community hub began on site in late 2023 and was completed in early 2025.





The project was over a decade in the making, going through many re-appraisals with different partnering organisations, dealing with design and affordability challenges – as well as a significant pause during the covid pandemic.





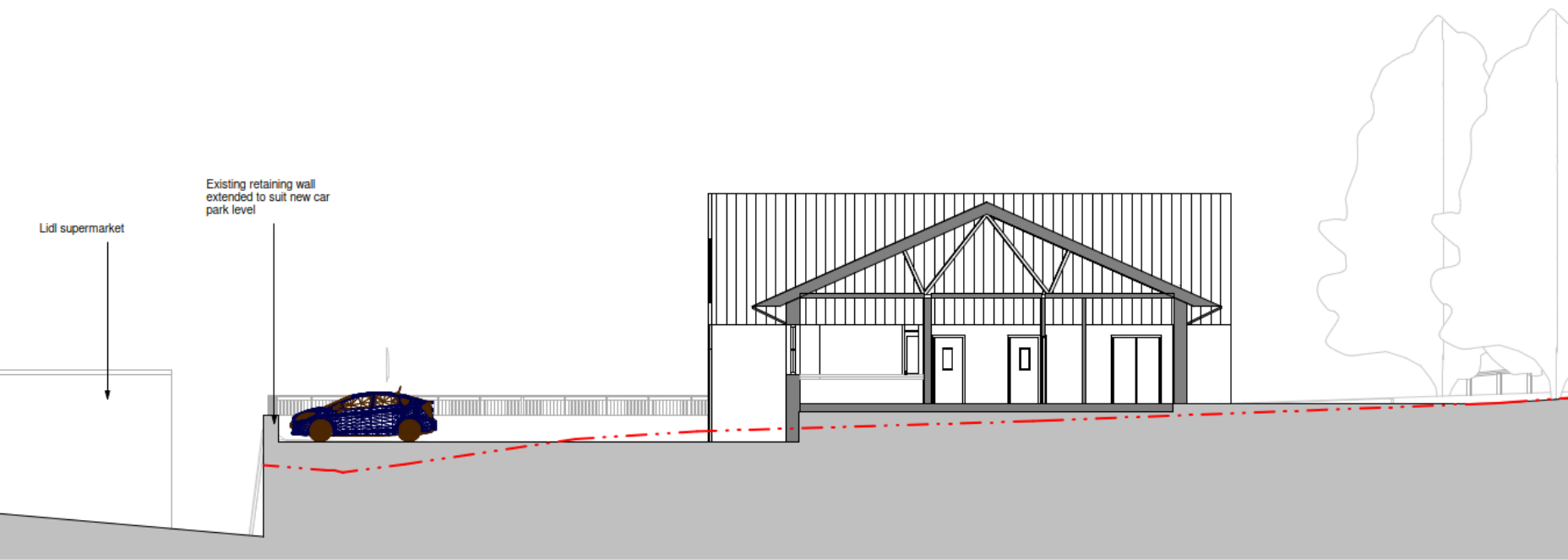
The building has gone through many iterations of the design brief with different uses and building forms, the community brief is the only one that remained constant!





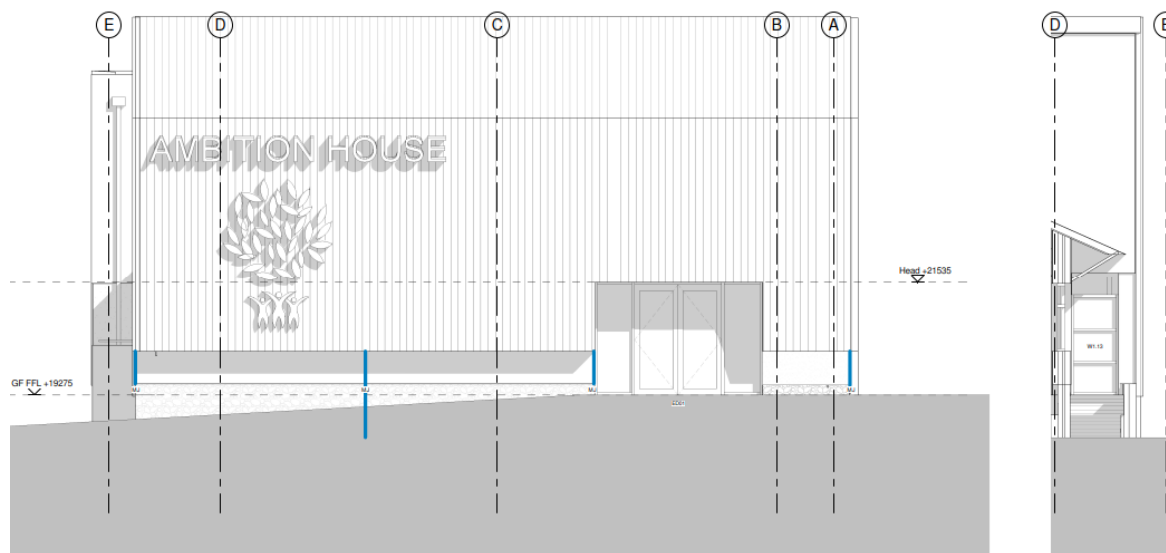
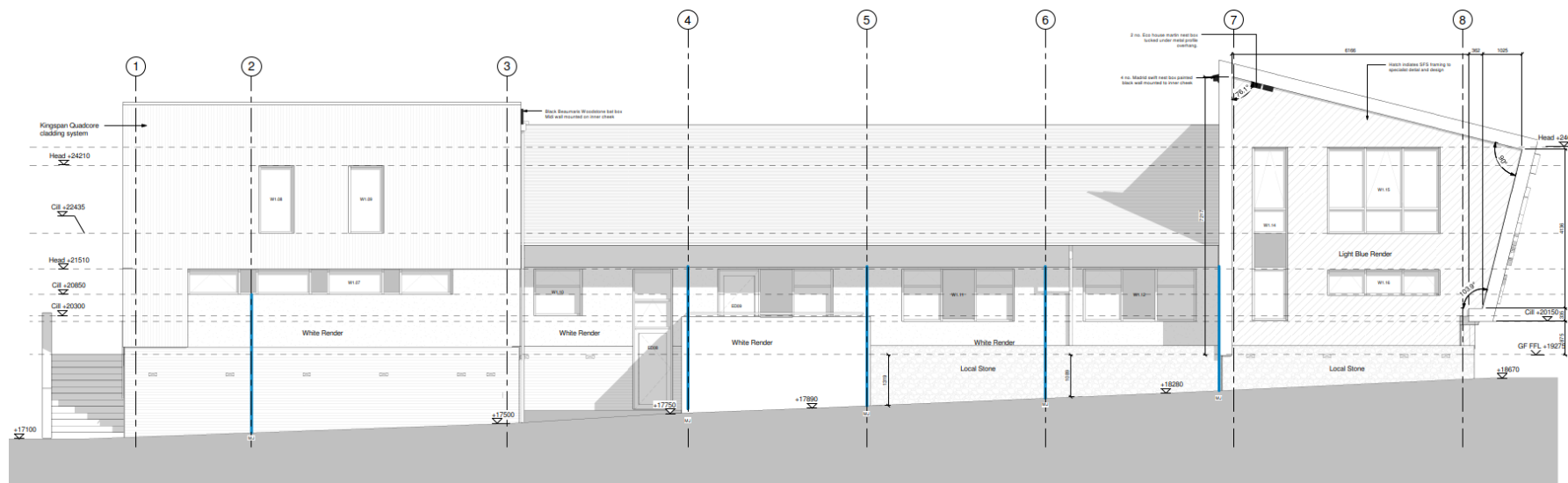
The design eventually developed into the design that has been built.





The relatively steep topography of the site was a challenge but was overcome with a higher level floor plate and stepped / ramped access from the car park.





The structure is two steel frames forming the large volumes at either end with insulated metal panel cladding, the central section is a traditional masonry construction with timber rafter roof.





Throughout the process there were important supporters of the project.

Bristol City Council allocated £1.2m from the Community Infrastructure Levy, later supplemented by an additional 241k to support inflationary uplift, they also transferred the leasehold of the land for a nominal fee.

gcp assisted Ambition Lawrence Weston throughout, from land acquisition and fundraising through to design and construction, keeping fees to a minimum to support the community effort.

The National Lottery Community Fund contributed a substantial amount

The Nisbet Trust also made a financial contribution

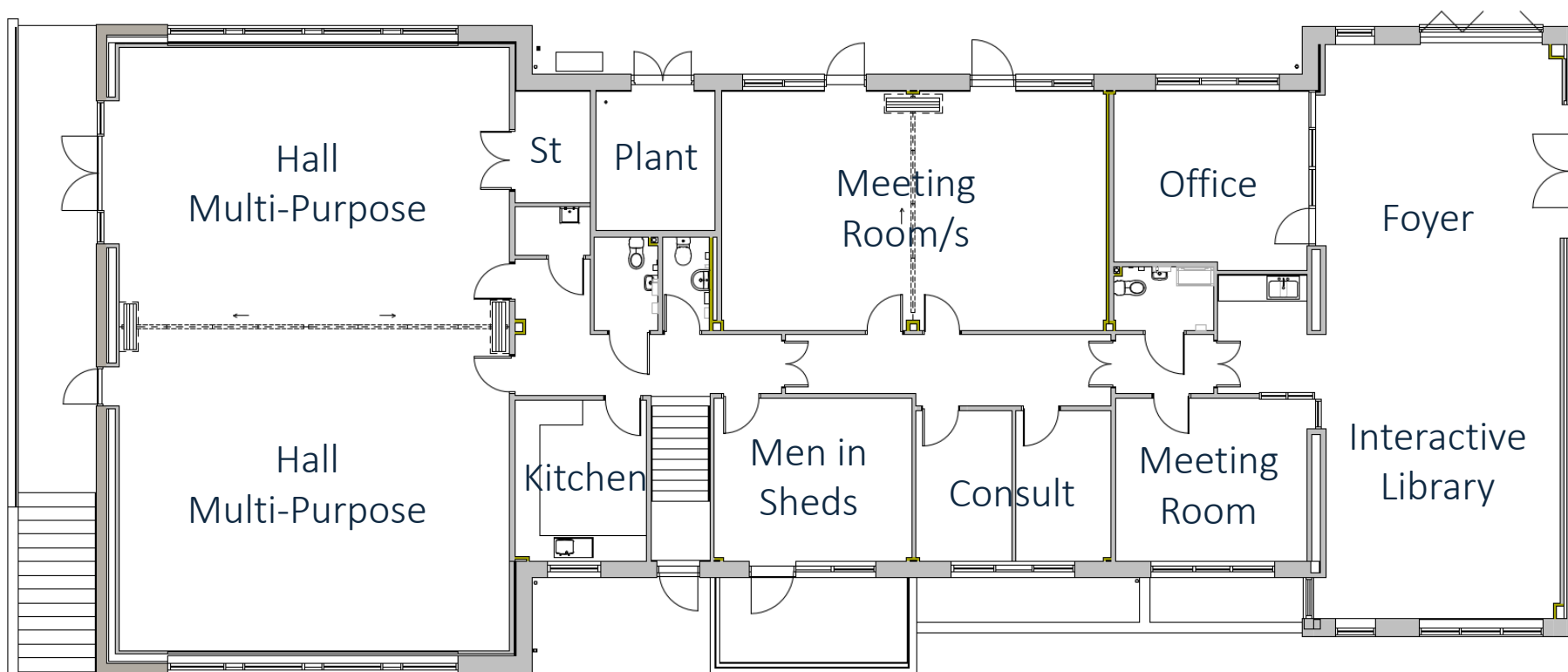
It was a team effort!



gcp are delighted to have provided advice and support through the evolving project and to have enabled the community to realise their dream of a purpose-made home for everyone.



Previously operating from premises no longer fit for purpose, the now complete community hub provides much needed bespoke space for Ambition Lawrence Weston, providing 422m² of halls, offices, meeting rooms, library and 'men in sheds'.





The design includes provisions for the future:

There is additional structure and a window sized as a door in the foyer to allow for adding a mezzanine and additional fire escape.

Larger structure, duplicate ventilation systems and additional fire doors are included in the hall so that a moveable partition can be added and it can be used as two separate spaces.





Many spaces are multipurpose, including the halls and meeting rooms, but some, such as the men in sheds space, are kitted out for a very specific use.





Externally, there is a plaza to the entrance with occasional parking for library van / health screening etc, a new pedestrian route through to the housing, wild-flower meadow, retained mature trees and provisions for a future muga. Pride of place is taken by a totem pole created by the children of Lawrence Weston.



