

St James Faculty Application: Church Extension and Seating Project

Supporting Documentation: Community Consultations

These comprised six one hour sessions – a 20 minute presentation followed by time for questions and comments. We (Keith, Ken, and Stefan on behalf of PCC) hosted 42 people across all six events. The questions/comments raised across these consultations were as follows. All of these were suitably answered.

Tuesday 22 March 10.30am: 11 attendees

1. Comment from person at Cathedral about getting more out of sermon without displays
2. Concern about cost of project, and is there a list of priorities for project.
3. What was the feedback from the DAC
4. Question about money and timescales of project, and how good development at Ashton Hayes has been.
5. When can we apply for grants
6. Comment that Icon chair is ghastly, I voted for no pews.
7. Comment on history of pews through ages
8. Comment about chairs in another church

Tuesday 22 March 6.30pm: 3 attendees:

1. Proposal was felt to be very sound and sensible and will provide the environment for "optimising of interest" which was felt to be a vitally important goal as it will enable more engagement and connections within the congregation & community.
2. Proposals were supported with no change.
3. Observation : we need to think about how we are going to create/generate/facilitate events that can take advantage of the new space(s) both from a mission and social perspective when we get closer to completing the project.

Thursday 24 March 9.30am: 9 attendees

1. What is the total cost of the project.
2. Will this project make the Parish Hall redundant.
3. Could you clarify your statement 'giving the church back to the community.
4. Will we use 3rd party contractors to run any coffee shop operation or events/activities.
5. Moving/storing/ stacking chairs is a workload, do we have the manpower to cope.
6. Why do we need an office in the church.
7. What will happen to the pews.
8. Will the Lady Chapel remain an integral part of the church.

Thursday 24 March 6.30pm: 8 attendees:

1. What is the timescale for completion of the project
2. What is the anticipated cost
3. Is the plan to deliver the project in separate elements or as a whole
4. Will the new extension visually/materially match the existing building exterior (and interior)
5. Footprint/dimensions of the extension

6. Fundraising - example given of a church that raised funds for a new church in Africa while raising funds for its own development. Suggestion for "toilet twinning".
7. Gratings on the edge of aisles in the nave are a trip hazard and could this be addressed
8. Impact of church development on function / use of Parish Hall

Sunday 27 March 9.00am: 7 attendees

1. The architect drawing shows an entrance to the choir vestry which is no longer there. It could raise questions.
2. Will the chairs be stacked during the week or be kept set out in the naïve.
3. Should we keep some pews in use.
4. Can we get financial support for the project.
5. There were a number of comments about how useful the presentation had been, clarifying the objectives of the development and bringing clarity and understanding to the detail of the planned work. It also gave a clear understanding of the potential benefits and opportunities the project will give us.

Tuesday 29 March 6.30pm: 4 attendees

1. Is the heating system capable of heating the church sufficiently during talks, concert etc.
2. Could we consider solar panels and rain water toilets for the extension.
3. Are the chairs suitable for young children.
4. Will we require a small team to stack/reformat seating for various uses.
5. Do we have a schedule of works and a forecasted cost for the project
6. Do we have sufficient car parking capacity to meet demand when events are being held.
7. Is the accessibility for the disabled from the road and car park adequate.
8. Will the chairs be stacked in the body of the church when not in use.