Extracts from Planning Permission proposal

Application Reference Number: APP/26/00878

https://www.wirral.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-permission/search-planning-applications

Materials:

Materials have been carefully considered to tie into the existing building as follows:

• Walls to be in sandstone to match existing

• Rainwater goods in cast iron painted black to match existing

• Stained glass windows utilising existing and new *

• Barge boards in timber, painted black to match existing

• Timber panelling details to match existing

• Clay Roof Tiles to match existing

** The church owns several stained glass window panes showing half figures of angels by C E Kempe which used to be in the dormer windows along the nave roof until 1906, when they were replaced by figures of British saints. Some were fitted in the south porch in 1908; the others are stored in the vestry. We plan to use three of them in the new extension, having them made up into tripled-glazed sealed units.*

Significance of Heritage Assets and Reasons for Proposed Changes

It is important to highlight that the proposed changes to St Bridget's are designed to maintain its appearance as a listed building. Alterations have been kept to a minimum to preserve its character and historic value.

The proposal seeks to provide an accessible DDA-compliant toilet facility in order to improve inclusivity and enable wider participation in the life and activities of the church.

The extension has been designed as a modest and subordinate addition that respects the scale, form, and architectural character of the existing church building.

The proposed works have been carefully located to minimise impact on the significance, setting, and historic fabric of the church.

The design approach adopts a simple and sympathetic architectural language that complements, rather than competes with, the historic character of the building.

Materials and detailing are intended to reflect the existing palette of the church and surrounding structures, ensuring visual cohesion within the site.

The proposal avoids unnecessary alteration or loss of significant historic fabric and is designed to be largely reversible where practicable.

The extension will support the continued viable use of the church as an active place of worship and community facility, helping secure its long-term conservation and sustainability.

Improved accessibility is considered a public benefit, enabling equitable access for elderly and disabled users who are currently disadvantaged by the absence of suitable facilities.

The scale of intervention is limited and the degree of harm to heritage significance, if any, is considered to be less than substantial and outweighed by the public and community benefits delivered by the scheme.

The proposal preserves the character and appearance of the church and its wider setting, including any contribution made to the surrounding conservation area.

The works are consistent with the principles of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in conserving heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance while allowing sustainable and inclusive use.

The proposal has been informed by an understanding of the historic development and significance of the church site, ensuring that the extension responds sensitively to its context.

A graveyard layout of the church shows that there are no graves within the proposed development area and therefore no human remains will be impacted by the development.

Adding the extension will create a pinch point along the pathway around the north porch to the tower. This has been carefully considered and there is still adequate space remaining without having to re-landscape.

Adding plumbing and drainage may require upgrades to existing system. Careful consideration to the design and massing of the extension have been considered to be sympathetic to the historic building.