

Report to Ordinary Congregational Meeting 11th February 2024

Following the Special Congregational Meeting on 28th January 2024, at which the congregation voted 45 – 8 to continue with the redevelopment scheme, the main tasks to be addressed in the coming weeks are:

1. Continue to refine the plans in consultation with the architects. Large scale drawings have been requested and these will be put on display in the Church as soon as they are available. Comments are welcome and will be used to inform the process.
2. Begin to explore fundraising opportunities in detail with a view to applications for grants being made at the earliest appropriate time. We have submitted an application to the Council for funding to employ a professional fundraiser and the outcome of this is awaited. If successful, work will take place between 1st April and 31st December 2024. If unsuccessful, other approaches will need to be adopted.
3. Extend the consultation process to include the wider community. So far consultation has involved the Church congregation and existing users of the premises. The grant application referred to in 2 above includes provision for a postal survey. We are also hoping to use the Council's "Commonplace" system which is an online tool for circulating local information.
4. Begin the consent process. We will require approval from the Methodist Church (who own the buildings) and the URC as well as planning permission (for alterations affecting the exterior of the building). We have had informal discussions about both, but will need to formalise these as we proceed.

We will continue to report progress via the bulletins and at scheduled Congregational Meetings and convene Special Meetings as required to address key decisions.

Colin Hogg