

Draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme

This Scheme is made by the Church Commissioners ("the Commissioners") this day of 20.... under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011.

Background

By a Scheme of the Commissioners made under the said Measure on the 18th day of July 2016 the parish church of Saint Aidan ("the building") in the former parish of Annfield Plain St Aidan in the diocese of Durham was declared closed for regular public worship.

NOW, it is provided as follows:-

Future of the church building and annexed land

1. The building and the land annexed or belonging thereto shown hatched on the annexed plan (together referred to as the property) shall be appropriated to residential use and for purposes ancillary thereto.

Disposal

2. The Commissioners are hereby empowered to sell the property for the said use.

Contents

3. The contents of the building shall be disposed of as the Bishop shall direct.

Coming into operation of this Scheme

4. This Scheme shall not come into operation until such date or dates as the Commissioners shall determine following the making of this Scheme and different provisions of the Scheme may be brought into operation on different dates and the Commissioners shall not be obliged to bring the Scheme or any part thereof into operation until such time as they are satisfied that the conditions specified in Schedule 1 have been complied with but may do so if they so determine.

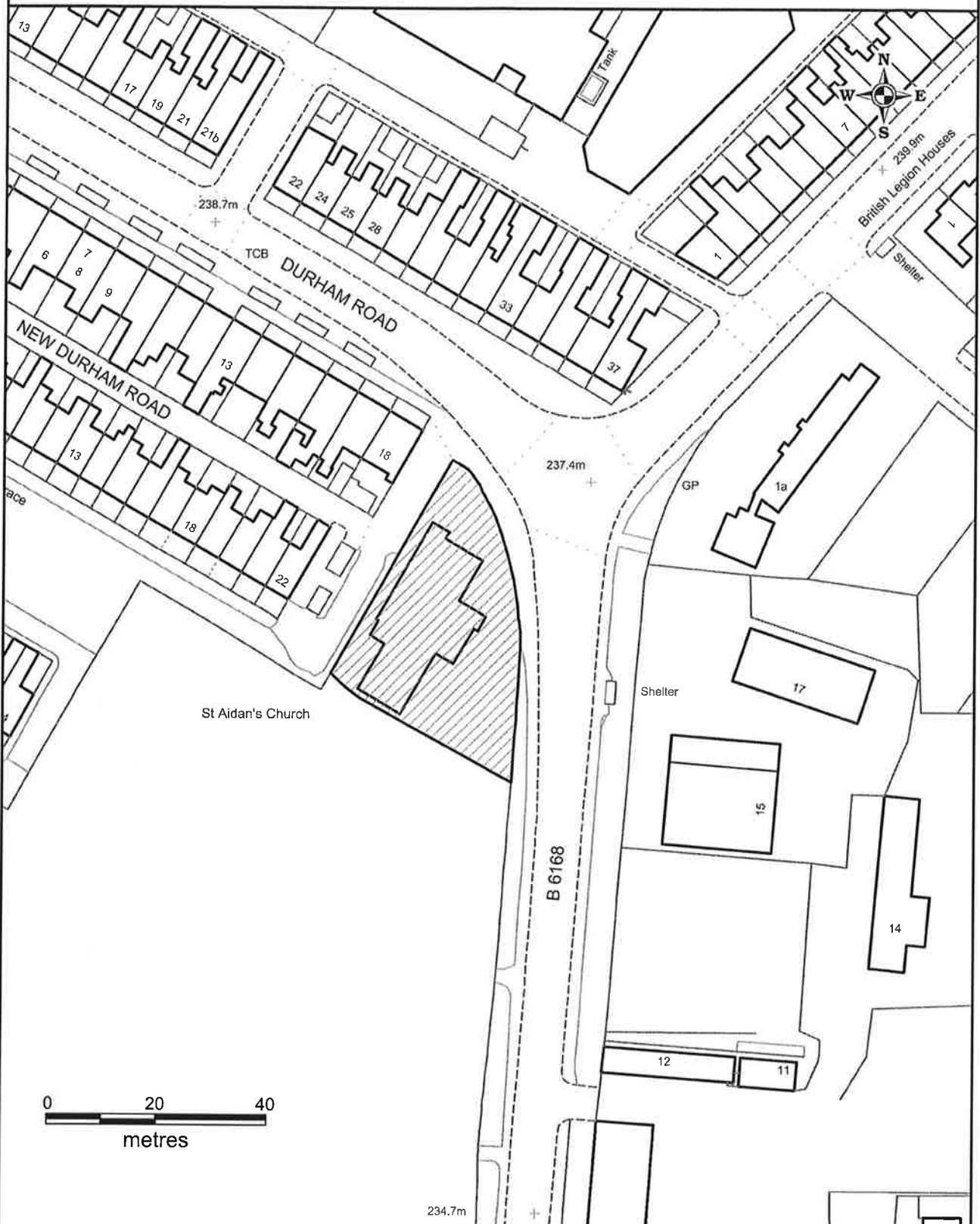
In witness the Commissioners have affixed their Common Seal.

Executed as a Deed by the }
affixing of the Common Seal }
of the Church Commissioners }
in the presence of:- }

Schedule 1: Conditions

- (i) That Planning Permission has been obtained for the said use.

ANNFIELD PLAIN ST AIDAN



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EXPLANATORY NOTE

MISSION AND PASTORAL MEASURE 2011 DRAFT PASTORAL (CHURCH BUILDINGS DISPOSAL) SCHEME ANNFIELD PLAIN ST AIDAN DIOCESE OF DURHAM

This note accompanies a draft scheme under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 which makes provision for the future of a closed church building. The Church Commissioners provide this information so that individuals and interested parties can understand the background to the proposals, make a reasoned judgement on the merits of the draft scheme and, if they see fit, a reasoned expression of support or objection to it.

The Current Proposals

The Commissioners have agreed to publish a draft Pastoral (Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme providing for the closed church of Annfield Plain St Aidan to be sold for residential use. It is proposed that the building will be converted into a single dwelling.

Background

Annfield Plain St Aidan was formally closed for regular public worship on 18th July 2016. The small, ageing congregation sought closure as they were struggling to meet the challenges of the building and as there is another church less than a mile away it felt to be no longer pastorally required.

The Building

It is a rather plain, functional building constructed in 1925 to replace a temporary mission hall which had been constructed to serve a growing mining population. Whilst it is in a conservation area the building itself is of limited architectural and historical interest. The building is constructed from red brick and sits within a curtilage which provides a small area of off street parking.

The Views of the Statutory Advisory Committee

The Commissioners statutory advisors, The Statutory Advisory Committee of the Church Buildings Council (SAC) have indicated that St Aidan's is of local historic and architectural interest only and that it is in need of repair and investment. The SAC noted that provided these issues could be addressed, the church would seem to offer good scope for conversion to an alternative use and that preservation through this approach would be preferable to demolition.

Planning and Access

Access to the building is direct from the public highway. Planning permission for the change of use of the building to a dwelling has recently been granted by Durham County Council under planning application no. DM/17/03653/FPA.

Burials and the Churchyard

There are no known burials at the site. The churchyard is currently home to the Annfield Plain Miners Memorial which commemorates a disaster that occurred in the adjacent former colliery in 1947. The Diocese are in discussion with the Parish Council about the most appropriate and respectful way to ensure continued public access into the future.

Making the Draft Scheme

Before they allow the Scheme to proceed the Commissioners will need to be satisfied that planning permission has been granted for the new use.

Correspondence

Further information about the proposals may be obtained from the Case Officer, Emma Cosgrif by e-mail at emma.cosgrif@churchofengland.org or by telephone at 0113 353 0269

Representations against or in support of the draft Scheme

Anyone may make a representation for or against any provision of the draft Scheme.

Representations should be sent to:

**Representations
Closed Churches Division, Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ**

Or by e-mail to: closedchurches.reps@churchofengland.org

Any communication received after 9th April 2018 can not be treated as a representation.

If we receive representations against the draft Scheme, we will send all representations, both for and against, to the Bishop, whose view will be sought. Individual representors will then receive copies of our correspondence with the Bishop (including copies of all the representations) and they may comment further in writing to us in light of the diocesan response if they so wish.

If no representations against the Scheme are received the Commissioners shall make the Scheme and bring it into effect as provided for in the scheme and explained above.

Information on the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011 and its procedures can be found on the Church Commissioners' web-site at www.ccpastoral.org where there are also links to download copies of these notes and the draft scheme.

Emma Cosgrif
07 March 2018.