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My Ref: 542

17 July 2023

**The Planning Department
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
Kent DA12 1AU**

**Chalk Parish Hall, Pirrip Close, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2ND:
The Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin Church, Chalk**

P L A N N I N G S T A T E M E N T

This statement forms part of a planning submission for a Lawful Development Certificate.

The submitted drawings include my drawings numbers 542/01-/07 inclusive and 542/PL01-/PL05 inclusive.

Chalk Parish Hall was built about sixteen years ago in accordance with Planning Approval reference 20040890, dated 02 December 2004. The hall was built by the Church as a culmination of a 10 year project to provide much needed facilities both for the Church and also for the wider community. It was officially opened by HRH The Duke of Kent on 7 June 2007. It would have been categorised under *Planning Use Class D1: Non-residential institutions including clinics, health centres, crèches, day nurseries, day centres, schools, art galleries (other than for sale or hire), museums, libraries, halls, places of worship, church halls, law court, non-residential education and training centres.*

Chalk Parish Hall has a number of spaces available for community use including: -

- Perkins Large Hall (160m² capable of accommodating 150 people standing, 120 people seated and between 90-100 people seated for dining).
- Perkins North Hall (99m² capable of accommodating 100 people standing, 70 people seated and 50 people seated for dining).
- Darnley-Joyes Hall with its own self-contained kitchenette (56m² capable of accommodating 60 people standing, 40 people seated and 36 people seated for dining).
- Holloway Hall (44m² capable of accommodating 60 people standing, 40 people seated and 36 people seated for dining).

Planning Use Class D was revoked from 1 September 2020. In the case of Chalk Parish Hall, I consider that it would now be categorized within *Planning Use Class F2(b): Halls or meeting places for the principal use of the local community*. It is used for a large number of community activities within the village of Chalk.

The hall was built as a part single / part two-storey structure under a mono-pitch roof with the highest part of the building fronting Lower Higham Road having two floors. The upper floor is currently used as storage accommodation and it has windows facing onto Lower Higham Road.

The Vicar of St Mary's Church, The Reverend Nigel Bourne, BA (hons), MA (Oxon), MBA, is also the Area Dean of Gravesend.

There is a need to provide a suitable office within the Parish Hall for the Hall Manager and a Curate and this space does not presently exist within the Parish Hall. There is also a need for a space to be available to hold meetings of the Parochial Church Council and of the Gravesend Deanery Synod involving in the order of twenty people.

My clients have identified and wish to use part of the upper floor storage space, which would be suitable as an office for the Parish Hall Manager and a Curate and also as a separate meeting room for Parish and Deanery meetings.

The office and meeting room would be used in connection with Parish and Deanery activities, which include the administration of the Parish Hall. A wheelchair-accessible lift would also be

installed between the existing ground floor foyer and the first floor accommodation including the meeting room and office.

Some storage space would remain available to use and where items in store can no longer be accommodated, they will be redeployed elsewhere within the Parish.

The only alterations that will take place are internal and the existing external appearance will remain unchanged.

It is my considered professional view that the F2(b) planning use includes the proposed lift, office and meeting room and that no change of use will take place. This is the purpose of this Lawful Development Certificate application, which your Council is now tasked to determine.

I trust that the documents provided will enable you to fully assess my clients' application. If any further clarification is required, please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Jeremy S Isherwood, BSc (hons), BArch (Wales), RIBA
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