

WHALEY BRIDGE UNITING CHURCH

DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

*(COPY OF THE DOCUMENT SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF
THE EXTENSION & REFURBISHMENT WORKS—AS AP-
PROVED AND SUBSEQUENTLY COMPLETED ON SITE IN
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PLANNING APPROVAL REF: HPK/2010/0021



Introduction

This document supports a planning application for the refurbishment and extension of a Grade 2 listed Church in Whaley Bridge, High Peak.

The building fronts onto Buxton Road and is situated nearby to the railway bridge which links Whaley Bridge to Stockport and Manchester.

The original building has undergone several transformations over the years. The central (1821) section was originally one storey but extended to two in 1841.

The chapel was built in 1867 as a two storey volume adjacent to the main church building. The original floor plan used to extend further back than the current one.

In 1871 the 3-storey block was built adjacent to the main building and the flat roofed extensions to the schoolroom were added in 1934. In 1985 the chapel was reduced in height from two to one storey and its floor area was reduced thus creating an area of garden at the back of the building. A small glazed porch was added to the front of the building and the roof of the 1871 extension was modified.

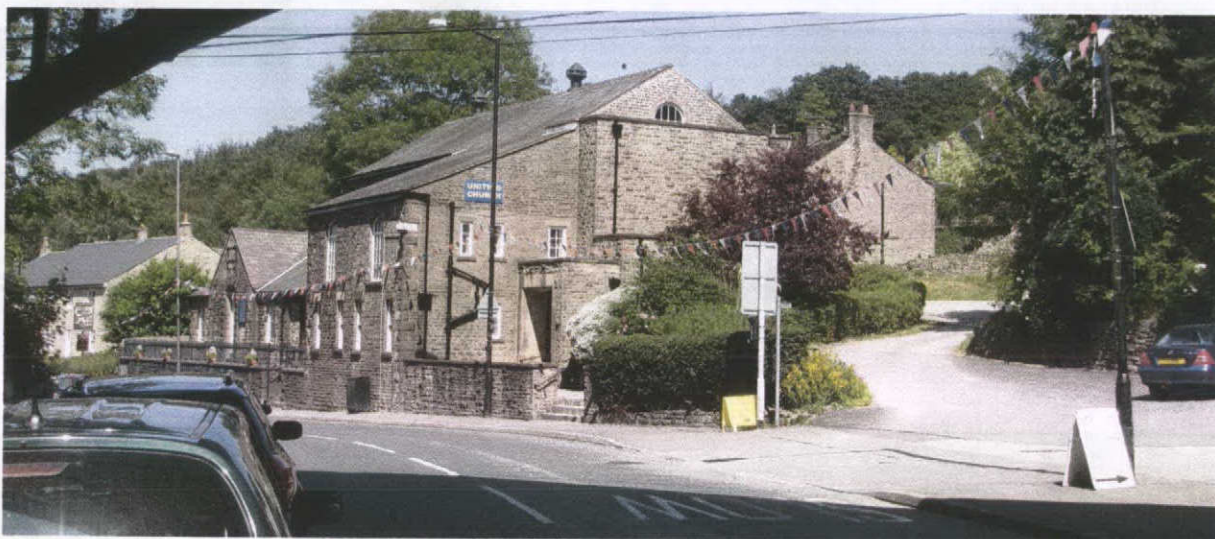


Fig. 1 Existing Building. Photograph taken along Buxton Road looking North

Use

The aspirations of the Church for this project can be summarised as follows:

- enlarge Kitchen (complete new fit-out);
- enlarge Fellowship Room, improve appearance and storage.
- create flexible linkage between Fellowship Room and improve appearance of Entrance Lounge;
- create new Main Entrance at South end of building and improve layout and external appearance of this end of the building, including the omission of flat roof areas;
- improve layout and appearance of South Entrance Hall, including provision of disabled toilet facilities.
- provide clearer, more attractive linkages from the Entrance Hall to other areas of the building;
- provide disabled facilities for use of First Floor Main Hall.

The existing building was surveyed and schematic plans and elevations were produced with levels indicated. Sketch schemes were produced for discussion showing proposals for the various areas of the building which are affected by the client's aspirations. In some cases options were produced, costed and appraised.

Consultation with the Methodist Property Office Conservation Officer Ian Serjeant was undertaken and comments made were taken on board to alter the design.

Amount

The proposed development will primarily affect the external appearance of the 1934 extension and its surrounding landscaping. The 1985 porch is to be demolished and a new fully glazed link is proposed in front of the original 1821 elevation.

The aim is to omit the flat roofs of the 1934 extension and replace these with higher double pitch roofs and increase the volume of the building to accommodate a disabled toilet internally at first floor level.

Layout

The main entrance of the building will be accommodated at ground floor level of the remodelled 1934 extension. Level access will be provided from the space in front of the church into the building. A ground floor disabled WC will be provided off the Entrance Hall.

From the Entrance Hall access to the Fellowship Room will be maintained and access to the Lounge and Worship Space will be facilitated by the new Glazed Corridor. The Glazed Corridor will provide a second entrance to the Church Building accessible via an existing flight of steps off Buxton Road.

Access to the Upper Hall will be possible from the rear of the building via an existing ramp and from the Entrance Hall at ground level via the existing staircase. A fully accessible WC will be provided at First Floor level to accommodate disabled users of the Hall.

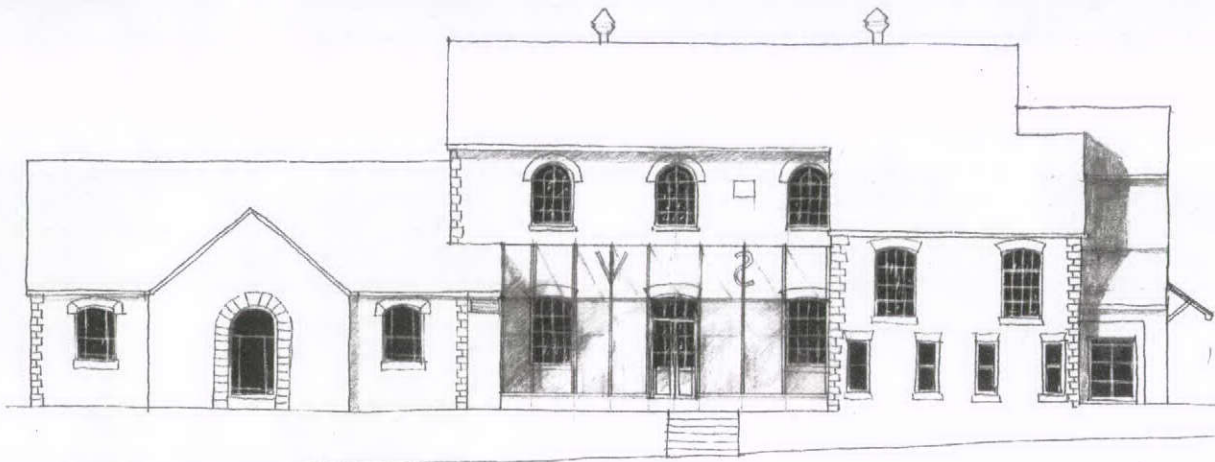


Fig. 2 Western Elevation as proposed

Scale

The height of the proposed alterations is such that the semi-circular window in the gable wall of the hall is not obscured by the extension. It is also important that the access to the store room in the Attic of the 1871 extension can be retained and the current design is thought to strike a balance between those two parameters.

The front wall of the 1934 extension will be extended upwards to accommodate the disabled WC and store internally.

A lean-to roof is to be created over the flat roofed porch which currently accommodates the entrance to the building and a glazed canopy is proposed over the new Main Entrance.

Landscaping

The area in front of the Church constitutes an integral part of the proposal. It is intended to create an open space where people can congregate away from traffic before and after entering the Church. In order to facilitate the transition between Buxton Road and the entrance of the building, it is intended to create a portion hard landscaping and reshape the area of soft landscaping currently in this location. An area of planting adjacent to the existing building will also be provided as well as seating.

This area of landscaping is currently accessible via an existing flight of steps from Buxton Road and also from the lane leading to the car park situated to the rear of the building. It is intended that the current means of access will be retained and that a new floor finish will be provided to these areas. A level access threshold detail to the main entrance will be created by taking advantage of the new levels achievable in this location.

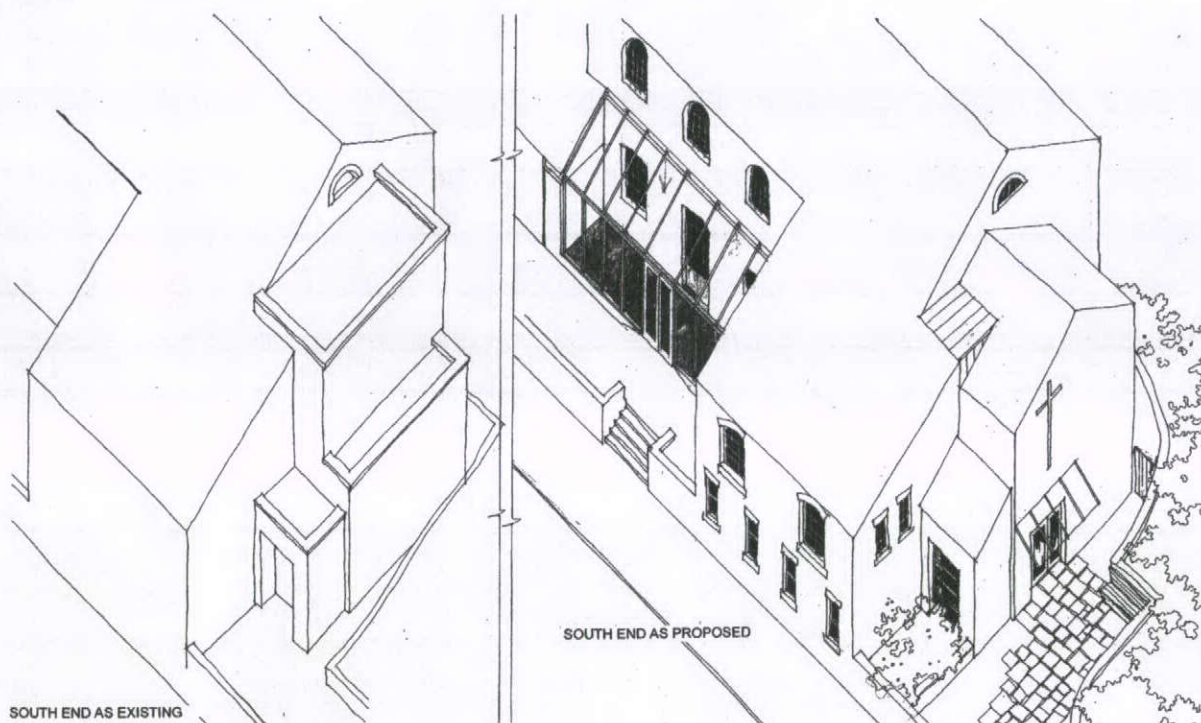


Fig. 3 Existing and proposed axonometric views showing landscaping

Appearance

The proposed extension is to be built of local stone with a slate roof in order to match the existing building.

Existing stone from portions of the 1934 extension to be demolished will be used as much as possible to construct the proposed scheme. This will ensure that the transition between the lower (existing) section of the Church's new front match the top (proposed) portion of the wall in colour and texture.

The corridor link will be completely glazed in order to expose the original (1821) façade as much as possible to the street.

ACCESS

Although the site slopes down from the car park to Buxton Road, it is possible to achieve a level approach from the car park to the main entrance. The rear entrance of the building leading to the first floor Hall is accessed via a ramped bridge over the garden at ground floor level.

Car parking spaces are provided to the rear of the building for access to the main Hall and to the side for access to the main Entrance at ground level. The two car parks are linked by a short section of drive. The gradients from each parking space to one of the entrances are level, however should there be any changes in level these will be kept to a minimum.

All of the alterations within the scheme are designed to meet the current Building Regulations, with particular reference to Part M. The standards employed for both design and construction of the alterations to the existing building and extension will allow for the flexible needs of the individuals that develop challenges caused by disability to continue using the Church.

