

Design and Access Statement in relation to the removal of 2 pew seats/benches at Chinley Independent Chapel.

The Chapel, which dates back to 1711, has wooden pews with doors. The pews are not wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair apart from one pew known as the Bagshawe pew. However, the Bagshawe pew can only be accessed via a set of steps. The steps are currently covered by a temporary ramp for wheel chair access but due to the stairs the shortness and angle of the ramp does not make the pew suitable, long term, for wheel chairs.

The proposal is to create a pew large enough to accommodate a wheelchair which would be located near the main door of the Chapel, thus removing any need to negotiate ramps or altered floor levels. To create the enlarged pew it would be necessary to remove two pews/seats and modify the existing doors so that they are hinged but at the same time retaining the overall appearance of the doors to match the other pew doors.

Whilst the Chapel is located within a Conservation Area the proposed works are internal only and therefore would not impede on local planning provisions in place.

No consultation is required in terms of access, the proposed alterations are internal, the Chapel is in use mainly for Sunday services and access to the interior can be gained via the East door which on the opposite side of the church from the proposed works. In any event we would not anticipate that the work would not take long to complete.