



President:

Chairman:  
Graham Barrow

Registered Charity No. 501544

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## Public Meeting at Bollington Town Hall regarding St. John's Church Thursday 3rd April 2008

The meeting called by Bollington Civic Society was attended by 60 members of the public and Society.

### Current Position:

- The Church is now in the hands of an Agent who specialises in the sale of Redundant Churches. Although a Brochure was scheduled to be produced by the end of April, there seems some doubt over date. From that date it is open to potential developers and/or the community to put forward proposals. *Only six weeks are allowed for this to take place!*
- The current requirement is for proposals that keep the Building complete.
- The Building is Grade 2 Listed, so any proposal will be required to take this into account and only 'high quality' schemes will be considered.

### Former Parochial Church Council Position:

- At the time of the closure of the Church, the St John's PCC recommended that the Tower be retained but for the rest of the building to be reduced to 2 course level, and to be a 'Garden of Remembrance'. However, Mrs Anthea Wilkinson, a member of the PCC, could not be certain that such a recommendation would be supported by the PCC today.

### Views from the Meeting:

- General feeling that the building should not be demolished.
- As a Grade 2 Listed building permission to demolish likely to be granted as a last resort only.
- General preference for the building to be for community use.
- However, no great objection to the principle of mixed commercial and community use. Thus providing some rental income to support the building.

### Possible Uses:

- Market hall – e.g. Farmers Markets, Antiques, Craft etc.
- Hostel/Accommodation for Cyclists & Walkers. (Church Street is part of the Cheshire Cycleway, the Gritstone Trail is adjacent)
- Climbing Centre with walls both inside and out. Adjacent abandoned quarry was in the 1960's a 'licensed' climb.
- Performance space – various ideas for size and complexity.
- Artists Centre, with high profile 'name' being involved to assist with funding. This could be a studio as well as a gallery.
- Outdoor Centre linked to the Ingersley Centre at Savio House.
- Support for retaining the Peel of Bells within the Tower for use by local and visiting teams.

- A difficulty with some of the ideas is the severely restricted parking that could be provided on site, or close by. The surrounding streets are already congested by residents parking.

Outcome of Meeting:

A Committee "Friends of St. John's Church" has been established to commence investigation into the future of the building, particularly as a community asset. This is a sub-group of the Bollington Civic Society, whose expertise and charity status can be utilised if and when required.

Members: Peter Skinner  
Ian Barrett  
Kaye Sanderson  
Gavin Raggett  
Larry Broomhead  
Karen Lawrence  
Chris Kettleby  
+ possibly a nominee from the PCC

David Haddleton  
4<sup>th</sup> April 2008