



Community & Civic Resources Committee

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Community & Civic Resources Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: Tuesday, 8 July 2008

Time: Immediately after the Planning Committee Meeting

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 722160

Chairman: Councillor Evans
The Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs Burton)

Councillors:	Beinhorn	East	Gagen
	Hopkins	Leighton	Nash
	Mrs Taylor	Mrs Winchcombe	

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM

1. REPORT FOR DECISION – FUTURE OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Recommendation

That the committee responds to the Parochial Church Council of St John and St Mary on the Town Council's view on the turning St Mary's Church into a community building.

Purpose of the Report

For this committee to form a view on the future of St Mary's Church.

Background

The Town Mayor, Cllr Mrs Burton has been invited to a meeting to look at the future of St Mary's Church and to guide her in any comments she may make, it would be helpful if the Council has formed a view on the future of the church.

The future of St Mary's Church has been hanging in the balance for some time, and the Parochial Church Council of St John and St Mary is of a view that, if the Church was to be made redundant, it would be a devastating loss for Devizes and its community.

The original consultation to make St Mary's Church redundant was at the end of 2006 and at that time Devizes Town Council agreed to the declaration of redundancy. It also agreed that these measures should not be carried out until such time as Saint John's Church was fully functioning following the fire.

These plans to make the church redundant were put on hold in 2007 whilst the possibility of St Peter's moving was explored. St Peter's PCC have now indicated they have no desire to do so.

The St John and St Mary PCC are now seeking views on the suitability of St Mary's Church becoming a building for community activities such as concerts, exhibitions, conferences, receptions and other meetings with the chancel and sanctuary remaining a place of worship.

The meeting which the Mayor has been invited to is on the 14 July where views and thoughts will be sought. A full public meeting will be held once the PCC have a clearer view on the future of the Church.

Options Considered

The committee needs to decide if they support the Parochial Church Council of St John and St Mary view on the turning of St Mary's Church into a community building.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

Currently there is no request for funding, funding for the project will be explored at a later date.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The Council is acting in the capacity as a consultee at this time

Environmental Implications

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications at this time

Risk Assessment

If the Council believes that St Mary's Church would make a suitable community building it could dilute revenue for many other community buildings in Devizes.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

TOWN CLERK