**Change of use of Orston Methodist Chapel to residential**

*Community Asset Statement*

1. Prior to closure for Covid, the chapel had been used for religious services twice a month and for social gatherings no more than once a month. Attendance at all these occasions was generally sparse. The chapel lacks disabled facilities and the estimated cost of providing them along with general necessary refurbishment was £80,000.
2. The small congregation had decided to transfer to the parish church for worship, as it has a disabled toilet and good refreshment facilities, and is also underused.
3. The village hall [www.orstonvillagehall.co.uk](http://www.orstonvillagehall.co.uk) has good facilities and is likewise underused. The Durham Ox [www.thedurhamoxorston.co.uk](http://www.thedurhamoxorston.co.uk) like many a village public house, is also seeking further custom, and has two small function rooms which it currently provides free to groups in the hope of food and drink sales.
4. Between the church, the village hall and the public house there are more than ample alternative venues in Orston for all the community activities which formerly took place in the chapel.