

Design and Access Statement

Temporary Storage Container classroom at St James' Church, St James' Place, Chorley

Introduction

This document accompanies the planning application submitted by St James' Church Parochial Church Council for the retention of a storage container adjacent to the main church building off St James' Place in Chorley. The container itself has been the subject of three previous planning applications:

- 09/00787/FUL Installation of storage container for a temporary period of three years. Approved 23 December 2009.
- 14/00827/FUL Retention of container in church grounds. Approved 6 November 2014.
- 19/01097/FUL Retention of storage container used as a classroom for additional three years. Approved 15 January 2020.

Background

The structure the subject of the current application was required for the temporary storage requirements of the church. St James' is continuing to improve its facilities for worship and community uses and has re-ordered the inside of the main church building to provide a large open worship and meeting space, classroom, new toilet facilities and a welcome area.

However, due to the ongoing requirements to provide office space and a classroom for children and youth groups on a Sunday morning it was determined by the PCC that additional space was required. Consequently, additional partitioned storage space has been provided within the church and the storage container was converted to a classroom approximately five years ago.

The conversion required various works to be carried out, including the insertion of windows and a door, addition of wall insulation, installation of electricity and heating, new flooring and the provision of safe means of escape. These operations were carried out in consultation with the Council's Building Control Department.

The additional classroom is required for a further temporary period of three years until the church is able to fund additional alterations to the main church building to provide suitable classroom and meeting room space.

Design

The container/classroom has the following dimensions as shown on accompanying Plan 01.

Height: 2.6 metres

Width: 4.4 metres

Length 6.1 metres

The container is a temporary structure which is designed to be a safe and secure classroom space. It is of steel construction and has been painted green/grey to blend in with its surroundings.

The classroom has been installed on an area of hardstanding and is located to minimise its visual impact on the locality and in particular views to and from the main entrance to the church building.

It is screened from residential properties along St James' Place by an existing mature hedge and from other angles it will be visible against the stone external walls of the church.

Access

Vehicular access to the site will only be required to remove the structure after it is no longer required. There is easy pedestrian access to the classroom and suitable fire escape provisions have been made to ensure the safety of users.