

Salem (Barnsley) Wesleyan Reform Church
Blucher Street Barnsley

The Salem (Barnsley) Wesleyan Reform Church is a Listed Building, (LBSUID 333689) located in close proximity to the town centre. Properties within the immediate vicinity of the church are predominantly retail units, office, licenced premises, YMCA and the main post office. There is little, if any, residential premises in close proximity to the church. To the rear of the property is the town centre bypass, Westway. The plan reference OS1 identifies the location of the church.

The age range of the adjacent buildings is from the late 1800s traditional construction with the most recent properties being built in the 1960s comprising concrete frames with infill panels. The Christian Fellowship building is a large imposing building, almost facing the Wesleyan Church, this building has had the window frames replaced with PVCu and aluminium units.

The church premises comprise of a two-storey place of worship to the front of the building with a two-storey addition to the rear, which is used as a community amenity. The upper floors to the rear section of the building show signs of structural movement and general disrepair.

The long-term intention for the building, subject to funding being available, is to refurbish the buildings to the rear to provide valuable resources to local community groups.

The proposal for consideration is to replace the existing timber framed windows to the front section of the building with modern PVCu double glazed units. Whilst it is generally accepted that plastic double glazed window frames are inappropriate for a listed building, in this instance special circumstances exist to permit the alteration.

Fifteen window frames to the front section of the building are in need of replacement because of their condition and inefficient thermal performance. Whilst the existing timber frames give the appearance of being sliding sashes, the sash mechanisms have long since been removed to leave a casement window. The glass, to a significant number of the windows, has been removed, the frames being re-glazed with a polycarbonate sheet. Polycarbonate glazing offers little to the thermal performance of a building and is susceptible to scratching and discolouration of the surface. As the material ages it becomes brittle and will eventually crack.

The intention of the trustees would be to install narrow profile white PVCu double glazed window frames, in a mock sash style, similar to the window frame shown on the attached sheet. The 42mm section frame is narrower than the existing timber frame members therefore the window will not appear as bulky as often happens with replacement windows frame.

The enclosed supporting statement outlines the current operational situation now and for the future of the church. The worst-case scenario would be for the premises to be handed back to the WRU that would almost inevitably result in the property falling further into disrepair. There are limited alternative uses for this building should it fall empty, the result being another empty and unused property on the fringe of the town centre.

The church committee see the replacement of the windows as the first step to rejuvenating the premises and are keen to ensure that worship continues in the town at the Wesleyan (Reform) Church.

