DESIGN AND ACCESS SATATEMENT

PROPOSED SECURITY FENCING TO CHURCH ROAD FRONTAGE

The English Martyr's RC Church
Church Road
Biddulph
Staffordshire
ST8 6JG

1.00 ASSESMENT

The English Martyr's RC Church and associated Presbytery are located in a predominantly residential area of largely Local Authority housing, to the East of Biddulph town centre.

Also located within the immediate area are Biddulph Health Centre (NHS); Biddulph Gospel Mission (opposite); Biddulph Youth Centre (adjacent to the South) and the Barley Mow public house. Schools and shops are within close proximity.

The Church at present maintains an open frontage to Church Street – the site providing large pleasant lawned areas and off-street parking facilities.

Unfortunately, the site has been subjected to anti-social and criminal activities, resulting in Staffordshire Police recommending the provision of suitable boundary demarcation. The Church have decided to act upon this advice and propose to erect black powder coated galvanised steel bar fencing and gates to a height of 1800 mm along the full frontage. A copy of the Staffordshire Police Architectural Liaison/Crime Reduction Officer's report is attached to the submitted Planning Application.

The proposed fencing will incorporate a concrete border/mowing strip with inset bedded and projecting pebbles/duckstones/cobbles running alongside the rear edge of the pavement. This facility will not only assist in the proper and efficient maintenance of the lawned areas, but also deter dog fouling of the site, which is a separate social and health related issue.

Other establishments in the area, including the Health Centre and Gospel Hall, have similar site protection in the form of perimeter fencing and walling, and English Martyr's Church have themselves invoked previous measures to the South of the site bordering the Youth Centre.

The horizontal alignment of the proposed fence impacts upon the position of the 'Church Road' street sign located to the North of the site, and separate provision has been sought with the Council 'Street Cleansing' Section for its re-location.

2:00 DESIGN

2:01 Use : The provision of the proposed fencing will help prevent serious on-going anti-social and criminal activities and follows the advice of the Staffordshire Police

2:02 Amount : The proposed fencing; its alignment; height; and appearance, are consistent with similar measures adopted within the area.

2:03 Layout : The proposed fence will follow the line of the existing pavement and will be set back some 800mm from the rear pavement edge to a void existing physical features – such as telegraph poles; guy wires; bus stop; lamps; BT inspection chambers, etc.
It is proposed to recess the gates to allow outward opening to avoid accessible gaps below the gates when in the closed position. The existing topography/site contours dictate this aspect of the design.

2:04 Scale : The proposal is to provide unclimbable fencing and gates to a height of 1800mm for the full length of the Church Road frontage. The raked panels will follow the ground contours (ie will 'hug' the ground and will not have steps).

2:05 Landscaping : The existing site will remain undisturbed beyond the line of the fence and the fence style will maintain the openness of the setting whilst providing the required security.

2:06 Appearance : The black powder coated vertical rail fencing is considered to be appropriate for the site and its setting.

3:00 ACCESS

Access to the site will be limited to occasions designated by the Church – the manual opening of locked gates being undertaken by the Church and/or parishioners at the appropriate times. The existing wheelchair, pedestrian and vehicular accesses will be retained.

23rd September 2009