Hewitt&CarrArchitects

Heritage Statement

Cheadle Methodist Church, Chapel Street,
Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent.

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Design and Access Statement in support of

The proposed front extension to Cheadle Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Cheadle.

"Good design can help to create lively spaces with distinctive character, streets and public spaces that are safe, accessible, pleasant to use and human in scale; and places that inspire because of imagination and sensitivity of their designers."

- *By Design, Urban Design in the Planning System; Towards Better Practice (DETR & CABE, 2000).*

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1. This proposal is for an extension to the front of Cheadle Methodist Church and internal alterations. The extension will form a new entrance to the church.

1.2. This application concerns the development of Cheadle Methodist Church, Chapel Street, Cheadle.

1.3. The production of this Appraisal has been considered as a necessary part of the design development process to ensure that the detailed design actively seeks to respond positively to its specific context in order to enhance and make the best use of the existing building.

2.0 Description of the Asset

2.1. Cheadle is one of the oldest market towns in the Staffordshire Moorlands dating back to Anglo-Saxon times. Over the years it has become more established since it was granted 'market charter' in 1250. Since then it is well documented as progressing from a market trade town with supporting agricultural businesses, to renowned textile producer throughout the industrial revolution. Both manufacturing and trading are still key features of the town's existence.

2.2. The Cheadle Conservation Area Partnership Scheme is helping to preserve the town's heritage and buildings. St Giles Catholic Church is widely regarded as one of the most magnificent gothic designs by the architect, Pugin.

2.3. The town stands in a valley, environed by high hills, near the river Tean and the Uttoxeter canal, 3 miles SW of Oakamoor, and 11 miles ESE of Stoke-upon-Trent.

2.4. Developing Cheadle

By 1676 Cheadle's population is recorded as just over one thousand, and a hundred years later, 1772 as one thousand eight hundred. During this time the main source of employment was agriculture and farming. At the same time a new workhouse was built and opened. It was extended under the Cheadle Union an 1837. In 1798, 10 weaver's houses were built. The weavers lived downstairs and the looms for the manufacture of tape were upstairs. By the 1820s the looms were transferred into a factory in Tape Street. This tape factory closed in 1972, and is now a shop. In 1851 silk and narrow fabric mills were built in Cheadle. They employed hundreds of operatives, and closed in 1981

2.5. Later Developments in Cheadle

For hundreds of years the main industry in the Cheadle area was coal mining. The Cheadle Coalfield was part of the much larger North Staffordshire Coalfield. The town and the surrounding area were once home to over 60 mines, but the Industry declined in the 20th century, and one by one the remaining larger pits were closed; Parkhall (now the JCB factory) and Hazlewall in the 1930s, New Haden in 1943 and Foxfield in 1965. However Opencast Mining and small scale mining carried on in Cheadle up until the 1990s. Today the town's main employer is the large JCB factory. There are also several small industrial units on the site of the former New Haden Colliery and the nearby Alton Towers theme park employs many people from the Cheadle area. A lot of people in the town commute to Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

3.0 ASSESSMENT OF ITS SIGNIFICANCE

3.1. Intervisibility is a major factor in the town due to the nature of being located in a valley. As a result, few parts of the Conservation Area are without impact on others, and ill-considered developments can have a major impact.

3.2. It is particularly important that existing contrasts are maintained. Each is the result of its historical development, and represents a key characteristic of the Conservation Area.

3.3. Each area has its own scale of development, in some cases associated with a particular type of building.

4.0 THE DESIGN CONCEPT

4.1. The concept for the design is the alteration to the entrance of Cheadle Methodist Church, Chapel Street, via a new extension. In addition to this, internal alterations including the introduction of internal glazing on the first floor will increase the amount of light entering the building.

4.2. Externally the proposal will resemble the existing street elevation through its materials.

4.3. The external facing materials will be a mix of brickwork and glazing.

4.4. Internally, the extension will provide a new single entrance and entrance lobby, seating area, kitchenette and WCs. Moveable partition walls and screens will be adopted on both floors.

5.0 THE IMPACT

5.1. Externally, the proposed alterations will not impact on the significance of the conservation area. It will be subservient to the existing frontage and surrounding buildings of Chapel Street.

5.2. The design of the front elevation (facing onto Chapel Street) will enhance the building aesthetically through the addition of glazing including a feature window.

5.3. In conclusion, this scheme will provide a more functional entrance to the church and a more flexible internal space. The internal and external glazing will improve the quality of the building with regards to natural light. The scheme will have little impact on the heritage of the conservation area, as a result of the use of similar materials to those already present. The design will also give the building further architectural interest through the addition of glazing on the front façade.