

QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT METHODIST CHAPEL & SCHOOLROOM

What are the intended uses of the building?

The vision is that the building will be used for low key activities for the benefit of the community. The Hub (village shop) which has been operating throughout the Covid pandemic, run by a group of volunteers, is likely to have primary use of a significant part of the former chapel space. The schoolroom will be available to hire for pop up cafe events, small exercise classes, board games, soup and pud lunches etc. Due to the central location and proximity to nearby residences it is important to say that events which involve loud amplified music would not be appropriate, but lower key quieter events such as private christening parties would be fine.

What is the fund raising target?

The building is to be auctioned on 28th July 2022 with a published guide price of £130,000. However, the Parish Council is keen to avoid stating a target to ensure that its maximum bid at public auction remains confidential. The current budget (before any donations) is in the region of £100k to 120k which is why the Parish Council believes there is likely to be a shortfall and therefore thinks that “tens of thousands” will need to be raised.

What is the basis of the business plan?

The acquisition will be funded by the Parish Council through a combination of existing cash reserves, a £25k grant from South Derbyshire District Council, a public works loan and donations which are currently being sought from local people and businesses. The extent of any short term refurbishment will depend on the level of residual cash reserves, and other grant funding such as from the National Lottery or central government. Ongoing maintenance and running costs are expected to be comfortably covered by income from the Hub and room hire for events listed earlier. Further detail on the background to the project and business plan can be found on the Parish Council section of the village website, under “Methodist Chapel project”.

<https://www.churchbroughton.com/parish-council/methodist-chapel-project/>

Will a survey be carried out on the building prior to auction?

Yes. The Parish Council approved the pre-acquisition cost of a full structural survey at its meeting this week, and the survey should take place within the next week.

Why do the Parish Council prefer donations by cheque?

Donations received by cheque will probably only be cashed if the Parish Council is successful in buying the building. This will simplify the process of returning donations to donors, in the event that the Parish Council is unsuccessful in its bid to buy the building.

Will donations remain confidential and if so who will know about it?

Yes, donors’ names and contact details will remain strictly confidential and only disclosed to a limited number of people on the Parish Council who need to know to carry out their jobs.