

Subject: Former Grove URC Chapel Oxford Road, Gomersal, Cleckheaton, BD19 4JY Application 2023/90073
Date: 21 February 2023 09:54:55

Thankyou for your consultation, received via the Joint Committee casework hub.

We must express considerable disappointment at the intensity of the conversion. The insertion of as many as 10 residential units effectively breaks up the historic interior.

At 4.16 the Heritage Statement lists some possible ameliorations but the scale of the drawings is such that it is impossible to test how many, if any, have been taken up.

Should not the test in this case be sequential ?

1. It needs to be established first that a use is not possible which works with the character of the interior as a purpose-built auditorium (with the removal of the inserted floor). How wide has been the marketing ?
2. Secondly why is it not possible to limit the intense conversion to the Sunday School, which is the lesser and more altered of the two listed buildings ?
3. Why must there be so many units in the chapel interior ? The lobby and the gallery stairs are retained but very little else. Is it not possible to provide more substantial but fewer units in the chapel thus reducing the need for so many subdivisions ?

Part of the charm of this Late Georgian chapel is the survival of the evocative burial ground. I cannot find reference to how this space will be conserved and maintained into the future, if the chapel is converted. Can the introduction of a common management regime be insisted upon as a planning condition ?

Multiple residential is the most damaging (and irreversible) of all conversions and should be a last not a first resort

Matthew Saunders

ECCLESIASTICAL CASEWORKER



www.hbap.org.uk

Formerly Ancient Monuments Society

+44 (0)20 7236 3934

St Ann's Vestry Hall
2 Church Entry
London, EC4V 5HB

Historic Buildings & Places,
the working name of the
Ancient Monuments Society,
is a registered charity in England
and Wales (no. 209605).



[Website](#) | [News](#) | [Email Updates](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

This email and any attachments are confidential. If you have received this email in error – please notify the sender immediately, delete it from your system, and do not use, copy or disclose the information in any way. Kirklees Council monitors all emails sent or received.