

The property was formerly occupied by the Batley and Birstall Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) as a private members club and was owned by RAFA.

The property is situated in the Market Place, Batley Conservation Area, although it is not statutorily listed, locally listed, or identified as a building of merit in the adopted Conservation Area Appraisal. Even so, it is recognised as an important contributor to the historic character and setting of the conservation area.

The property was originally constructed as a place of worship being a Christian Brethren Chapel with accommodation for more than 300 seated worshippers. The denominational use of the Chapel later changed and became an Independent Methodist Chapel until approximately 1971. Meanwhile, the RAFA club used to be located on Field Lane but relocated to the subject property when its membership outgrew the Field Lane premises. The former Chapel was renovated by the club's members and opened on 1st August 1974

As to planning policy, the Kirklees Local Plan was adopted on 27 February 2019. The subject property is located in Batley town centre but is outside any designated shopping frontages or the primary shopping area. Policy LP13 deals with town centres. Main town centre uses which are appropriate in scale, help to retain an existing centre's market share, and enhance the experience of those visiting the centre and the businesses which operate in that centre are supported. Town centres are designated as being the focus for the local provision of services.

It is proposed to add a 36 panel Solar PV system on the roof of the building which aligns with contemporary efforts to reduce carbon emissions and promote renewable energy sources. The proposed system will harness solar energy to generate electricity, thereby reducing the building's reliance on non-renewable energy sources and lowering its carbon footprint. This initiative reflects a commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship, which are increasingly imperative in the face of climate change.

In conclusion, the proposed installation of a Solar PV system on building in Kirklees represents a harmonious integration and sustainable development objectives. By harnessing solar energy while respecting the historical significance of the building, this initiative exemplifies a balanced approach to meeting present-day energy needs without compromising the legacy of the past