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## Development Update 2

We are writing to update everyone on recent developments in Castle Street's plans for the redevelopment of our church buildings.

Since the last update in March when the church council had decided to progress to the next stage of detailed design, the Development Committee has:

- updated estimates of costs and timescales for the building project
- refined details of the layout of the first floor to give more usable space
- begun to gather views on details of the plans from the church family
- explored potential routes to retain the car park, using income from parking to service a loan
- held a consultation on community use of the new building, affirming our desire to work in this area and resulting in a working group who will investigate needs and opportunities
- formed groups to work with our architect to specify the detailed design of the interior of the building.

Last week, Castle Street received notification that the existing church buildings (both worship area and hall) have been given Grade II listed status. This means that our permission to demolish the existing buildings is no longer valid, although our planning permission for a new building is still in force. This listing was completely unexpected and came at a point at which we had just started the detailed design process.

Our Development Committee met this week and has identified some ways in which we might still realise Castle Street's vision of a new church building on the site. Over the coming weeks, the Development Committee will continue to investigate these options in more detail. A final decision about how to proceed in this new situation will be made by a meeting of the Church Council, to which the Development Committee reports.

Our programme of work had estimated demolition after Easter 2004, with new premises occupied in October 2005. The listing will, at the very least, cause a significant delay to these development plans. We will continue with our

work looking at community engagement and ways of maximising the value of our resources. However, the Development Committee has felt it prudent to pause the detailed design process now, before we incur the bulk of the professional fees on the project.

Our next steps involve many people's time and talents in discerning how we can best move forwards. It will clearly be a demanding time, and one therefore in which our support and care for one another will need to be firm. We shall need to be praying too, individually and as a church, as we seek God's guidance for the future. We will endeavour to keep everyone informed of progress through further updates. If you have any views and feedback or would like to discuss our options in more detail please feel free to talk with members of the Development Committee at any time.

With our best wishes,

*Jonathan Dean*

*Sarah Creeke*