

# Parish Redevelopment Project

## Update for Parishioners

### Introduction

As it's been a year since my last note to you on this topic, here is a summary of the most recent activity and current status of the Parish Redevelopment Project.

As a reminder, the project comprises two closely linked elements:

1. The sale of St. Peter & St. John site to generate funds to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> part...
2. Redevelopment of the present St. Tarcisius Presbytery into a modern Parish Centre.

This entire project in one form or another has been envisaged for almost 10 years and has gathered pace in the last two years as we now approach some key stages. Despite delays caused by COVID-19, pre-planning process and obtaining the necessary approvals and support from a variety of organisations, including the Diocese and the Historic Churches Committee we are making positive progress.

### St. Peter & St. John

The SPJ site comprises two separate plots of land in the Land Registry that had been acquired over 60 years ago from two separate owners, several years apart. A year ago, it became apparent that there were similar restrictive covenants attached to both plots in favour of what is now Surrey Heath BC that might prevent a sale to our selected **Housing Association (HA)**. After consulting with the Diocese, engaging a barrister for "counsel's opinion" and repeatedly contacting Surrey Heath councillors and officers for several months, we received confirmation in March that the covenants would be released if the site is to be used for Affordable Housing, which is our and the HA's firm and stated intention.

The HA had temporarily paused its efforts until the covenants issue was resolved. Now that the way is clearer, the HA is assembling its full Planning Application for the SPJ site to submit later in the summer. Before that, the Diocese will need to sign a sale contract for the site. Nothing will happen on the SPJ site until we have planning approval for both sites. We will make clear to the Planning Authority that the SPJ and St. Tars projects are directly linked and one cannot proceed without the other. Hence it is our intention that the HA and Parish will both submit our planning applications simultaneously and will have pre-briefed the relevant SHBC councillors in both Wards (Old Dean and St. Michael) as we have been doing up until now.

### St. Tarcisius

With St. Tarcisius, we have, in conjunction with the Parish Finance Committee and Diocese, decided to proceed to propose our preferred planning option, which is to demolish the current Hall and Presbytery and replace them with a modern, highly visible Parish Centre & Hall with greatly improved meeting facilities, catering, as well as sound and heating systems for Church and Centre.

The alternative option of retaining all or just the frontage of the presbytery is a more expensive and complex project that would require multiple compromises in both layout and facilities.

Due to all the preparation work that has been completed in the last 2 years, we have assembled all the necessary documents for the full Planning Application. All we now await is confirmation from the Housing Association that they are ready with their Application for the SPJ site and we will submit linked applications to SHBC. When these Applications are submitted, we will provide parishioners (via the newsletter) with links to the SHBC Planning website, to leave supportive comments. As both projects progress, I will continue to keep the Diocese and Parishioners informed. If you have any comments and questions regarding the current situation of the project please email them to ([paul.turner@abiocese.org.uk](mailto:paul.turner@abiocese.org.uk)) or send them in writing.

Fr. Paul Turner  
27<sup>th</sup> April 2022