

SUBMISSION OF ROCK PLANNING APPLICATION

WHAT THIS MEANS AND WHAT WE CAN ALL DO

What actually has happened?

On 22 August, Bathnes Council received and registered a planning application from All Saints Church. The application related to the proposed extension to the church and to some modest changes to the church yard and car park.

What about the ROCK proposals for the interior?

These changes do not come under the control of the Council. It is for the Diocese to decide whether or not to approve. The Diocese also has to approve the extension and other external changes, as well as the council. We will start the process of submitting our plans to the Diocese in September, although it is aware of what we want to do and is broadly supportive.

Can anyone see the plans and the planning application?

Yes. They are now available for public comment. The easiest way to see them is to go onto the Council website.

1. Type in: <https://planning.bathnes.gov.uk/publicaccess>.
2. Then type in All Saints Weston. This will bring up a page that has a number of headings. To see the plans and all the documents, click on 'Documents'. If you don't want to wade through 200+ pages, go to the document headed 'Design & Access' Statement
3. To add your comments, click on the bar that says '*Consultation period open. You can comment on this application*'. Now indicate your support (or objection) and your comments if you have any plus your address etc.
4. If you can't go online, then you can submit your comments in writing to Bathnes Planning Services, Lewis House, Manvers St, Bath, BA1 1JG. The application reference is 19/03731/FUL.

The Design & Access Statement is also on the All Saints website. Just click on <https://www.allsaintsweston.org.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?id=234817>

Also a folder with all the key plans is available at the back of church.

Is there a deadline for public consultation?

Yes. All public comments have to be submitted by 26 September.

When will we know whether or not the plans have been approved?

The Council is required to make a decision no later than 8 weeks after the application has been registered, although council officers can ask for an extension, and in our case a two-week extension has been requested. So we should know the outcome by the end of October. However, at the end of September there will be an on-site meeting with the Council Case Officer (who knows the scheme and its changes very well). At that meeting we should know whether or not we are likely to receive planning permission. If approval is given, there will be a long list of planning conditions and perhaps some further minor changes to the plans will be required.

Will there be any public meetings?

The Council will not organise a meeting but we hope to set up another small exhibition in church and have some kind of open-church so that people can come in and see what we are proposing and then comment if they wish to. That goes for church members as well as our neighbours and residents who are not members of the church.

Who makes the decision?

At the moment we anticipate that council officers will make that decision. However, it is possible that the scheme will be referred to the Planning Committee for Councillors to make the decision. Our two local councillors have met with members of the ROCK Team and they are supportive, but are not on the Planning Committee.

Can I do anything to help?

Yes. You can register your support for the scheme by going online or writing to the Council and by encouraging others to do the same.

Secondly you can pray. Pray for:

- The council officers reviewing the scheme alongside their other tasks; pray that they will appreciate and give due weight to the benefits to people that will flow from the project as well as the changes to the appearance of the church as it is now
- The consultants and members of the ROCK Team as regards any conversations that will take place with the council officers or requests for more information or changes
- For people in the immediate neighbourhood that they will understand clearly what is being proposed and that they will be supportive