

Neutral Citation Number: [2019] ECC Gui 3

**IN THE CONSISTORY COURT OF
THE DIOCESE OF GUILDFORD**

Date: 2 November 2019

**IN THE PARISH OF HEADLEY WITH BOX HILL
THE CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN**

In the matter of a petition for a faculty for a new Church Room as an extension to the church

JUDGMENT

1. In my memorandum of 14 September 2019, I spoke of objections raised as long ago as 2016 from two of the amenity societies. I summarised them as follows:
 - (i) The Victorian Society would have preferred a true octagon and not half an octagon (actually a pentagon with an octagonal roof!)
 - (ii) The Victorian Society would have wished for less connection to the north elevation of the church by using a walkway and locating the toilets (which abut the north wall) into the octagon.
 - (iii) Historic England thought that the octagon was cathedral-type architecture and a rectangular building akin to the north vestry (gable and pitched roof) would be more appropriate.
2. As I was conscious that these comments were made as long ago as 2016 and my papers included little if anything to suggest anything has been done to address them, either by modifying the design or giving reasons for disagreeing with them, I sought information as to the current views of both Historic England and the Victorian Society.
3. I am pleased to record that as recently as 24 October 2019, Historic England wrote saying they had no objections to the current scheme. On the same day, the petitioners provided a copy of a Design Statement dated 21 October 2019 in which the process of consultation and development was set out. I also note that on 15 October the Victorian Society signified its consent to the current petition.

4. That being so, the current scheme has no objections aimed at it. They are no matters that require further consideration. I grant the petition and direct that the faculty is issued. The petition is a good example of how consultation and a reasonable response to it pays dividends.
5. As there appears to be a deadline of 5 November 2019 for an application for funding, I request that the Registry use its best endeavours to issue the faculty as soon as possible. If this is not possible, I invite the petitioners to submit this judgment in acknowledgment that the faculty will issue in due course.

ANDREW JORDAN

CHANCELLOR