

HERITAGE STATEMENT

Relating to

PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF ROOF-INTEGRATED PHOTO-VOLTAIC PANELS

At

BARNES METHODIST CHURCH
Station Road
Barnes
SW13 0NH

THE HERITAGE ASSET AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

Description

Although not on the statutory list, the Methodist Church has been designated as being of 'townscape merit' and is thus included on Richmond's list of Locally Listed Buildings.

Built of red brick with stone window and door surrounds and ornamentation under steep pitched slate roofs, the church dates from 1906. The building sits at the edge of the pavement of Station Road and overlooks Barnes Common.

It is an imposing building and has remained largely unchanged externally since construction.

Significance

Its significance lies in its prominence, use and imposing position on the edge of Barnes Common, and its contribution to the townscape of the Barnes Common conservation area.

PROPOSALS AND IMPACT ON SIGNIFICANCE

The fixings to the roof slates are beginning to fail with increasing frequency so it has become necessary to re-roof the church for the first time in its history.

Nationally the Methodist Church aspires to reduce its carbon footprint and recognises that energy consumption in its buildings has a significant contribution to make. In keeping with this policy, the Methodist Church in Barnes has decided to take the opportunity afforded by the re-roofing contract to install integrated PV panels to generate green electricity.

To maximise power generation and thus the return on investment, the panels need to be placed on a suitably-oriented roof slope. In this case this happens to be the slope facing the road

where the visual impact will be lowest, in contrast to the long views of the opposite slopes from Barnes Common and surrounding properties. The eaves are around 8m above street level and the panels will be integrated into the replacement slate roof coverings rather than fixed over them, reducing the visual impact further.

The precise panels have not yet been selected and will be the subject of a tender exercise, but integration into the slate coverings will be a primary criterion for selection. This will also be an issue considered by the Methodist Church authorities in their approval procedures.

Policy and principles

The adopted Local Plan's policies on 'A Sustainable Future' include the promotion of the use of renewable energy. The SPD 'Sustainable Construction Checklist Guidance' also makes reference to the desirability of generating energy from renewable sources.

This is to be balanced against policy LP4 which seeks to preserve and where possible enhance the significance, character and setting of locally designated heritage assets including Buildings of Townscape Merit.

The principle of adopting renewable energy in refurbishment works is clearly desirable and here the impact on the building and the conservation area is low.

David Ensom BSc, MRICS
Hall & Ensom Chartered Surveyors