

THE BIG VISION – community consultation – August and September 2019

Responses from questionnaires distributed around Kirkby Lonsdale and completed online.

Total 26 written questionnaires returned via the TIC and 5 returned online (figures correct at 19/9/19)

THE CHURCH BUILDINGS

What do you feel about the Churches' vision for widening the use of the buildings and surroundings for greater community use and benefit?

- Good idea
- Good idea – so long as they remain primarily churches
- Very necessary. We must find ways of making church property pay its way.
The depth of the pockets of the few is limited
- As long as the interior of St Mary's is not stripped of its pews!
- An excellent idea
- It may be necessary to do this but start by asking what the churches offer on Sundays. That is their core reason for being. Widening their use may dumb down their status in the community but they are attractive buildings which could stage concerts, exhibitions etc
- An excellent idea. If you could somehow provide buildings/surroundings for occasional use by young teenagers of the community it would be marvellous. It would act in 2 ways, they would possibly help with the upkeep of churches and grounds!!
- Yes – good idea for more local activity
- Great idea!
- Do not reinvent the wheel, this model has been rolled out nationally- research most vibrant examples
- As church members we are keen for greater community use of St Mary's
- Needs must – they should be used as much as possible
- I think it's an excellent idea as long as we keep our existing services
- I feel this is a real way forward in preserving our local community
- A great idea! There is a lack of good open space in the centre of KL. Beautiful surroundings.
- Good idea
- Widening the use of the buildings has to be a plus, particularly those buildings not used specifically for worship. In the Churches themselves care needs to be taken in choosing which events are suitable – concerts, exhibitions etc. are all to be welcomed. However I would not be in favour of removing pews. Having visited several Churches where this has happened I found them totally soulless. St. Mary's is a Church, and a lovely Church at that, which must remain a Church first and foremost.
- Fully support the vision for widening the use.
- Long overdue
- it's a good idea to have the community use, the churches and area around. Good stewardship!

- An excellent idea, if interest to the community does not involve any religious themes or beliefs
- I really value the church as a quiet place to sit and reflect and to take visitors to. I have not been in the other buildings but walk through the churchyard a lot. I hope as many people as possible can benefit from them
- Good idea
- An excellent idea – accessible for all!
- Very good idea. The buildings and surroundings need using and designed for the use of the greater community
- About time
- Good idea
- Excellent to use the land and buildings for the benefit of everyone, not just church attenders. It would show God's love in a very practical way
- An excellent idea to widen the use of the church buildings for greater use and benefits to the community. It would be really good if rooms could be made available so that groups could meet without a huge financial charge. For instance Hutton Roof Village Hall has an open afternoon on Wednesday afternoon for anyone. People turn up, chat, have a cup of tea and sometimes cake or biscuits. No charge just voluntary contributions which more than cover the cost of the hall. There is no commitment from anyone, people just turn up and the person who had the idea to have a regular get together has no personal financial commitment to pay for the hall. It's a really lovely friendly afternoon and a great way of getting people in the village - old and young - to meet. Perhaps it would be really lovely if the Churches or indeed the community had a place like this where people could meet up on a very informal basis (perhaps older people or groups of parents or young people). The Institute/Lunesdale Hall is really expensive to hire and whilst it would be a good facility to use for a get together it comes with a financial obligation to any organisers. It would be lovely to have a place in Kirkby Lonsdale where people could meet like they do in Hutton Roof.
- No definitive vision has been presented by any one church community. You require opinion based on fact and none has been given. First, what are the sizes of each congregation? Appropriate decisions should be taken depending on numbers affected in each church. With a population of around 2,000 K. Lonsdale does not need three buildings for its religious communities to worship in. The practical solution is to retain St. Mary's and develop that building so that it can be shared between each denomination with its own unique characteristics and furniture. The religious calendar is the same for each church, the only issue being who should have use of the church at what time of the week or Sunday. Money generated from the sale of the other two churches could be used to rebuild part of the interior of St. Mary's. This has been done in many other villages in England that we have seen, and external grants are available to support such an idea. Both religious and secular activities must take place within the same building. A mezzanine could be built at the back of St. Mary's that could house a new library or young people's area, thereby allowing the old library building to be sold for development. The pews should be removed completely and chairs placed in the centre aisle only: the pillars in the church do not allow people seated in the aisles or chapel to see or feel part of the church activities that take place in the chancel

or choir. The screen round the choir should be removed to allow greater freedom of space in that area and the choir stalls removed. Go and see what is happening in many cathedrals in England, where the choir and altar have been brought forward in front of the congregation: the beautiful 16th century choir and altar are used only for special occasions. Town community activities should be centred on St. Mary's. In days gone by, the church was the focus for such events. The difference between then and now is that today fewer people attend church regularly on Sundays and do not socialise within it. The town lost its youth activities building that was Centre 5 in Horsemarket nearly thirty years ago, there is no comfortable centre for Cubs, Scouts or Girl Guides to meet in, and there is no enclosed space with decent acoustics for music concerts to be staged except in Queen Elizabeth School. Simple kitchen and toilet facilities that can be accessed by disabled folk must be incorporated into St. Mary's, probably where the vestry is. St. Joseph's church has a history only 50 years old. It has no historical significance, is difficult to access by car and parking is very limited. That does not mean that its congregation should be ignored when deciding its future. The Wesley Methodist Chapel, Kirkby Lonsdale was founded around 180 years ago and was built to a utilitarian design, being suitable for a wide range of community events within its walls which makes it an attractive building to hire for community activities such as film shows, coffee mornings, and other events. However, like all the other small venues in Kirkby Lonsdale, it has to compete with the Lunesdale Hall for hire. Its position within the town is a disadvantage in this regard. The Town Council must be included in any discussion for rationalising public buildings and their use in Kirkby Lonsdale, simply because of the high maintenance costs of any public building which has to be borne by somebody. There will be competition between St. Mary's and the Lunesdale Hall for holding community events, the one building more suitable for some events than the other: such conflict must be resolved for the ultimate benefit of all.

- Until I received the leaflet I didn't know about it (probably my responsibility for not attending enough recent services) but I imagine many KL people will be in the same boat and be blissfully unaware of the public consultation exercise. The key sentence in the leaflet seems to be "the Churches' vision is that they should provide the greatest possible benefit to those who live, work and study here, and those who visit this very special place." Emphasis on heritage and the environment is also a safe bet with the wider community. However the leaflet is wonderfully vague about future aims once their laudable directives have been stated. One would caution against a public consultation exercise after the private resolution of the plan in order to tick a planning requirement /community approval. **Specific Suggestions:**

1. **Expand the Cultural venue role.** Music, theatre (not sure due to para 1 above), Art shows, museum displays, educational talks, educational classes. Aim for the high cultural arts as this maintains the appropriate image of the church necessary for the credibility of its traditional role and doesn't mirror the other KL venue functions. Rock concerts: Rugby club. The Institute: Indoor market. Recent music and culture events that have involved many KL venues and included St. Mary's Church have provided a successful indication of public acceptance.

2. Wedding Breakfast/ Funeral Wake Venue. Having a modern fully functioning wedding breakfast room very close to St. Mary's would benefit the local community and gather significant income for groups visiting KL for such occasions. Can such room be built within the Churches' real estate? The Sun Inn has informally been used for numerous wedding pre and post service drinks, (but very few wedding breakfasts due to the lack of a suitably large rooms with 80+ seats). Part time Cafe/ part time Wedding venue/ part time cultural centre?

3. Tourism Museum. KL would benefit from a venue that makes more of the history and role of KL in the national and local story. This could perhaps be linked with the Tourist Information Office and perhaps linked to paragraph 2 above.

4. Church garden. A garden for grieving people to meet, walk and talk or for a wedding party to enjoy the use of would be a suitable role for church real estate. Perhaps a bandstand for brass band concerts / the existing brass band competition. Can a church garden be created around the constraints for the ancient monument protection? Morally, people attach environmental protection and species diversity to a positive ideal. If the church garden could include environmental protection and rare species encouragement, it is suggested that this would be widely accepted by the community.

How would you feel if for any reason the Churches in KL were no longer available to the community?

- Concerned – they should be a resource for all to use
- I feel our community would be depleted and less of a community
- Sorry for the community
- Devastated
- It would be a great loss
- Deeply saddened. But you are asking the community to come to the churches with this exercise. Should the church not look at how it comes to its community?
- Not happy
- Very sad
- Sad – they are history
- I think the churches should continue to be available
- Another loss for community cohesion as a community seeks personal benefit projects within welcoming environment
- Aggrieved – the churches are an essential part of the community
- A wasted asset
- It would be very sad as the church should be at the centre of the community
- Deeply saddened
- Very sad as they are at the heart of KL and I see times ahead when they may be needed more than ever
- If the Churches in KL were no longer available to the community it would be regrettable but would not change my life at all.

- Would be devastated to see the availability reduced. Its the heart of our beautiful town.
 - Devastated
 - Huge loss
 - A real loss
 - I would be quite comfortable if St. Joseph's and the Methodist chapel disappeared. St. Mary's must be retained from a historical point of view.
 - The church buildings remain an important part of KL both aesthetically, culturally and spiritually
 - A tragic loss
 - Not bothered
 - That would be very sad
 - We would be despising our ancestors and that's 'not on'
 - Very sad. These buildings are full of history and the local heritage/ They are places people can find peace and quiet
 - The size of congregations in the churches illustrates how missed they will be – don't rely on funerals!
 - They would become irrelevant private clubs and would deserve to lose their charitable status
 - We would feel very sad if the Churches in KL were no longer available to the community. They are a really important part of the culture of England and even if we aren't regular church goers we feel the churches need to be preserved (though possibly using one Church building as an ecumenical place of worship for all - this would cut down on the cost of running 3 separate church buildings)
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THE SURROUNDINGS OF THE CHURCHES

Are you aware of Cockpit Hill/Motte/Glebe Field?

- Yes
- Yes
- Glebe Field yes, Cockpit Hill/Motte no and I walk past it 4 times a week!
- Yes
- No
- Yes. The Glebe Field was not so long ago used much more often for celebrations, both private (wedding receptions) and public (seasonal BBQs for the community). This has been allowed to lapse
- Yes
- I had heard of Glebe Field but not of Cockpit Hill/Motte

- No
- Yes
- Cockpit Hill and Motte no, Glebe Field yes
- Yes
- No
- Yes but only recently
- No, I wasn't until I saw it on the photo display
- I wasn't aware of it, but I have lived here for only 7 years and being elderly have not ventured very far off the beaten track
- I have read about it but can't quite work out where it is or how to get to it
- Yes, I am aware of Cockpit Hill, Motte and Glebe Field but have never visited.
- To take advantage of the whole setting seems very sensible & we trust you'd do that with taste & care to protect the importance of its history.
- Yes aware of CH and GF
- Only the Glebe Field but never had the opportunity to go in
- We are aware of Cockpit Hill/Motte. Think it would be good if this can be turned into somewhere that could be accessed by all - provided this wouldn't damage this ancient monument.
Glebe Field is in a beautiful setting and would perhaps provide a lovely space for outside concerts, theatre productions and get togethers for both the community and visitors.
- It is suggested that the role (s) should be decided/defined and then the building or real-estate solution should be allocated. Buildings should be demolished/built in line with this plan to modern economic standards where possible, outside of St. Mary's Church itself.

Should we look at creating access to Cockpit Hill given its historic significance?

- Yes
- Probably not. It is a small area and close to a quiet, contemplative graveyard
- No
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes – it should be part of a 'Churches trail'
- Yes
- Possibly
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes with appropriate constraints and safeguards
- Yes
- Yes
- Not necessarily
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

- Yes
- Yes please
- Seems like a good idea!
- This would be a good idea given its significance. Also to make a through pathway to the cemetery. It is a long walk to the main gates especially if not a good walker!
- Possibly. Not knowing CH etc I feel unqualified to say
- We should give public access to it anyway – it is too much of a jewel to keep private – but some appropriate monument/plaque would give it dignity
- The main difficulty would be the weather. Any events or activities would need a Plan B at least. This aside, any use would be welcome if community based
- Giving public access to historic sites always has to be done very carefully with sensible restrictions. Excess use of historic areas can lead to degradation if not carefully managed.
- Yes give access to Cockpit - otherwise it gets forgotten. Celebrate its history & spread the knowledge to future generations- most historic monuments are supported & celebrated in this way . Keep the history & beauty alive for new visitors to the church.
- Yes. Maximise KLs historical and cultural assets for tourism. This is currently done in a quietly modest manner and could be significantly increased.

How specifically could the surroundings be used in the future to meet the needs of the community and/or enrich the life of the community?

- It already provides a rich habitat for insects, plants and other essential wildlife
- The Glebe Field could have more open access for picnics etc
- Glebe Field could be incorporated as an extension to the now congested graveyard and clear access then made to Cockpit Hill
- Promote them for photographic backdrops, information panels, use the Glebe Field more frequently
- A small park with decent seating
- Archaeological education through creative arts (sculpture), environmental education through E/A positive impacts (funding available)
- As an area for junior activity – Sunday School, Guides, Scouts etc. Could there be 2 seats for the elderly to rest?
- Best left as it is - more seats maybe at Ruskin's View and Churchyard
- Hold events on them such as fêtes, games, have community 'pick up litter' day
- The field could be used for marquees for weddings at a cost. Or fêtes.
- Possibly a walk? With information stands?
- The churches are already used for concerts/charity events and I feel that they are very good at providing a venue. Maybe areas could be used for other useful practices such as yoga, meditation etc
- Never having visited I have no idea how the area could be used to enrich the life of the community!
- Develop for nature reserve and historical interest involving our schools – to encourage the young in caring for our countryside and history
- Hold more of the town events here. Recreate some of the very historic traditions & celebrations (the less gruesome ones!)

- This would be worth a separate public consultation- it's a fabulous site that could be host to many happy events eg open air concerts, theatre, celebrations
 - For events eg choirs etc
 - We need to have a proper access to the graveyard. For disabled people, at the moment it is impossible for me to get to my husband's grave
 - I think the church and surroundings are already v well presented – the interpretation boards really add to it so more of these please, and perhaps a little linked trail and boards of the church and surrounds that anyone can do at any time. Quiet places to sit
 - The surroundings of St. Joseph's and the Methodist church are of little importance or merit, and should not be included in the debate. St. Mary's churchyard is an important place within the town with many visitors strolling through it, viewing graves, and enjoying the informal atmosphere created from the way that it is managed. It must be retained. There is little rationale for trying to develop Cockpit Hill/Motte as a historical site to attract tourists. If the significance of this area must be described, then such information should be placed in St. Mary's and visitors encouraged to walk and discover it, but there must be something significant to see or appreciate. There is much open space around the children's play area by New Road, Ruskin's View, the rugby ground, and land below the Brow by the river where community activities can and do take place. There is no point in duplicating facilities for outdoor community activities such as picnics, family gatherings, or children's sports that exist already: surely the religious community of all ages can use these.
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THE RECTORY/COTTAGE/VICARAGE

Do you have any ideas as to how these buildings could be used in the future, bearing in mind any needs you see in the community?

- Could they be converted into flats for young people? Older people to rent?
- Make the Vicarage the main clergy residence – the use the Rectory for community events, hostel, holiday home for disabled/disadvantaged people
- The Rector needs to be able to live in sensible sized accommodation. The Rectory needs to be used for meeting rooms for both Church and secular purposes. Bridge/dominoes/chess clubs are possible as well as all the young people and young mothers' meetings. The upper floor rooms should be refurbished and let as flats for those cannot afford to buy locally
- St Mary's Cottage and Vicarage could be rental properties as the cottage already is. The Rectory could be internally altered to provide accommodation for the families of clergy rather than just the Rector
- Could one of the buildings be used a Youth Hostel?
- The Vicarage for the Rector, the cottage for a Vicar. The Rectory to be a Heritage/Visitor Centre with tearoom and shop. Specialise on religious history of the town, promote books and other souvenirs relating to our church treasures, many of which lie forgotten elsewhere in the county.

- Some of these buildings should now be made into apartments for our clergy – present houses are far too big for one family. Professional advice should be sought here – this would surely be cost saving
- Small workshops like Sedbergh where anyone can drop in
- An Arts and Crafts Centre perhaps with tuition available for art classes, starting with children of Primary School age
- Breakfast Club /Afternoon safeguarding (chargeable). Counselling hub – wellbeing therapies (rentable small spaces), creative workshop for artist to sell services and products to the community (rentable and % of sale income)\in order to finance to a comfortable occupancy for the clergy (paying their rectory expenses – heating bills) we suggest renting the 3rd floor of the rectory plus the cottage
- Whoever lives in these properties should be responsible for all costs, as anyone does in their home. The clergy should have no special status. They should pay rent like anybody else
- Could they be rented out as affordable housing, or turned into flats?
- It would be a great Christian statement to allocate at least some space for facilities/activities to benefit the least well off
- Maybe part of rectory or vicarage could be turned into self contained flat ad let off to someone in the town
- No ideas sorry
- Open it up to the public. We have a fantastic historical interest from tourists far and wide. So why not charge for entry/donations to enhance expenditure?
- There could be temporary accommodation for genuine homeless members of the community for various reasons
- That is a real problem bearing in mind the running costs
- Make the Rectory into 3 flats with one being for the Rector and the other 2 let out and so ensure it is fully used and paying its way
- These buildings should be used for the rehabilitation of ex service men and women (these persons have fought for us and for this country and come home damaged and very ill)
- I have never been in these buildings and I only know the big house which I call the Vicarage and show all my visitors and tell them the JM Barrie connections. Even if they are not open publicly they still add to the church's surroundings. Can one of them be let as accommodation to raise funds - accommodation for residential courses?
- Perhaps creating apartments within the Rectory for added rental income or creating office space or meditation centre. We lack facilities for the young in KL. If you are into sports we are well catered for but a youth club type facility where the young go and chat, play music etc would be good
- The clergy do not need all of these buildings especially as focus seems to be on non stipendiary clergy with homes of their own. Need to look at how some of these buildings could be used for affordable housing/shred dwellings for single young people
- We are blessed with a huge variety of clubs/societies in our beautiful town but something which binds the generations (old and young) would be good. Interaction between generations can only improve relations between these groups and make our community even stronger

- Maybe some rooms could be used for book groups, meeting rooms. I know that some of the pubs provide such space for free in the knowledge that people will purchase drinks etc but maybe some people/groups would prefer not to meet in a pub
- Perhaps the smaller buildings of the Cottage and Rectory could be made into residences suitable for the clergy? Adapted to suit the needs of the number of people/families who need to live there?
The Rectory is a large beautiful building. Maybe a place to use for several rooms for community use for meetings and get togethers? There are a lot of lonely isolated people living in our community and maybe it would be excellent to have meeting places for informal gatherings without a huge cost commitment (voluntary contributions?). Maybe part of it rented out as a holiday let to provide income?
Maybe a tea room at the Rectory could be a possibility?
It would be really good if our really lovely young people had somewhere where they could meet or gather. Our youth do respect things - please don't forget that - when you are doing any thinking and planning.
We definitely don't want to lose any part of the Churches buildings. They are all a really important part of Kirkby Lonsdale. We really hope that it will all be adopted and used by the community and visitors. We lost a huge part of the Royal Hotel a few years ago, that loss can never be replaced. Let's ensure that a similar loss doesn't happen to the Churches and the buildings.
- These are the most valuable asset St. Mary's has. Serious consideration should be given to sourcing capital to invest in maximising these assets. The Rectory, a splendid building, could be turned into two dwellings plus offices and meeting room. With a good rental income from the second dwelling and from the meeting facilities the capital outlay should be recouped in a relative short time. With careful conversion the building could be made energy efficient. The cottage and Vicarage are import components of the property port-folio and should be well maintained to provide accommodation for members of the Team or, when not needed, let. The rented sector is buoyant at the moment and is likely to remain so. I think it would be a huge mistake to sell any of the property particularly as it is very close to the Church and it would, sadly, only be a matter of time before an occupant objected to the Church bells, etc., etc. So many times this has happened when farm cottages have been sold to maximise capital only to find, two or three sales down the line, that there are objections to noisy, smelly farm livestock, to tractors working before 8.00 am or after 7.00 pm,, to slurry spreading, to collecting yards, the list is endless. Beware!
- Is there an opportunity to create a wedding events venue - sorry I haven't been in this space so unsure of its size & restrictions
- The Rector must have accommodation suitable for him and his family adjacent to St. Mary's. There must be private garden space surrounding it for the family to enjoy. The incumbent alone should define what size of home is necessary for family life. If there is excessive space within the Rectory, it could be converted to other accommodation for clergy of similar or other religious orders that serve Kirkby Lonsdale. If the cottage and vicarage are surplus to requirements for housing the clergy, then they should be sold without conditions attached. It is St. Mary's that should be centre for community use, not the Rectory or other church buildings. The maintenance

costs for all church buildings must be reduced or shared with other religious groups where possible.

- It is very difficult to provide a answer to the public emotional attachment to the Rectory/Vicarage buildings. See comments above: i.e. if the buildings are not modern in their function and economy and can be replaced without public discontent then modern buildings should be sought within financial constraints. If these modern buildings can include service to the community then that would be an advantage
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ANY OTHER COMMENTS

- Thanks for your hard work
- Conversion costs for the Rectory could be raised as loans from locals. Management of the converted Rectory should not be a clergy affair but lay – with clergy on a management committee under a lay chair
- The external appearance of St Mary's and the Rectory must be protected
- Who has the qualifications to properly assess the hundreds of different views being drawn out by The Big Vision? Consider bringing in independent consultants to properly study options, make comparisons, estimate costings, present best (practical and affordable) three options to enable a local decision to make the final choice
- If the church made the effort to reach out to all members of the community, help would, I'm sure, be available for maintenance both inside and outside the church – the churchyard is desperate for some simple work
- A meeting place for young people with soft drinks/snacks and music. There is currently no such facility/youth club available
- The cottage could also be a spiritual retreat
- We greatly commend the endeavour of The Big Vision and feel sure it will provide a better understanding of the work of the combined churches and enhance the Christian mission in the community
- It needs thinking about and talk is good! I guess the churches, like many organisations these days, have no choice but to address sustainability. People want churches within their communities so a conversation is needed to benefit all
- I have no other comments on the Big Vision other than to suggest that it might be a good idea to co-opt someone from one of the local land/estate agents on to the Project Team.
- We're new to the town. Love it & admire the effort & energy committed to such initiatives & fully support making the town & facilities future proof & keeping up with new & different demands.
- A great idea and long overdue
- Only to say I wish you every success in your efforts. Also I never cease to be amazed at the variety of chimney pots seen from my bedroom window
- The size and external grandeur of the Rectory with only one member of clergy living in it is out of place and does not set the right tone for a church of the future. Bishop James moved out of Rose Castle to set an example years ago
- I think the church and the churchyard are a great asset to the town and are already very well kept and presented. I send all visitors to the church with

guidebook in hand. I am very much in favour of using community buildings for a wide range of purposes and grateful for all the effort that already goes in, and that is being put into this Big Vision project

- These are Christian buildings and lands and it is an opportunity to serve all people – the least well off as well as the fortunate. We have the chance to create the bedrock of a modern truly Christian community showing heaven on earth through practical services and facilities for everyone. Lets not turn it into an exclusive commercial enterprise only benefitting certain kinds of people
- Other churches in the Rainbow parish must be included in this review. What is the justification for Holy Trinity, Casterton being maintained at huge cost when the one service each month is attended by less than a dozen people? The building has excellent acoustics and is a great concert venue, if only the pews were removed: also, it has some wall murals and stained glass of historical interest. There has to be a much more open discussion regarding the other rural churches in the parish. This whole process of a 'Big Vision' needs radical, out-of-the-box thinking, and not conservative traditional expression of views that maintain the *status quo* as far as possible for members of the religious community. Society has changed hugely in the past fifty years and each religious group in Kirkby Lonsdale has to evolve within that society, not try and turn the clock back. Moral and ethical values in society are now so very different from what they were 40 years ago, families more fragmented, people more upwardly mobile and life styles more expansive in outlook: the vision should be for the entire parish community to come together and share its successes and failures, enjoying fellowship and supporting one another. That is sustainable rural living.
- It is suggested that the planning constraints (Ancient monument protection, SSSI, Tree Protection Orders etc) connected with many of the Church real estate will restrict radical development, however this need not be the case if the local Planning Officer is engaged early and the benefit to the local community is emphasised. This may cause delay but need not necessarily stop progress. The more constraining issue may be the conservative nature of the community which may delay a significant change from the *status quo*. It is acknowledged that this public consultation exercise is part of that process. A long term campaign plan including finance, public relations, infra-structure and cultural concerns would be advisable - you probably have this already.

The comments below were submitted by one individual as part of the feedback but do not fit into any of the questions asked so are reproduced here:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some feedback into your “Big Vision” project. I think the starting point should be a series of stated constraints and freedoms for what the Kirkby Lonsdale (KL) Community would wish for from its Church.

1. A traditional church function. From my time meeting the community in The Sun Inn, The Kings Head, The Royal, the Rugby Club, as well as St. Mary’s, Kirkby Lonsdale is a “small c” conservative town and therefore wish the church to be available for births, weddings and deaths when they require it. Probably most particularly when their family members require it. Therefore any additional function that St. Mary’s Church specifically takes on should be functionally and emotionally temporary and compatible in the minds of KL people with the central role of the Church. So for example the large spiral slide seen in one UK Cathedral recently would probably go down negatively as the elderly nor the working men and women may feel that this role is too light hearted for the traditional serious role of the church.

2. Where do KL people gather their views on the role of the church? The views that any dramatic “Big Vision” will require to overcome are from many sources. Educational establishments, the media, electronic social media, newspapers. If there is a national PR campaign that is publicising new roles for churches, it is recommended that St. Mary’s should link into this campaign to enable acceptance. For example, KL people choose hymns for their weddings that they last heard at School or have seen in the media. A freedom here might be that as many KL people have little experience of the “accepted role of the church” (outside the obvious), expanding into new areas may be carried out with a statement of ” the national direction for the new role of churches is into these new areas”.

3. New Functions for the numerous Church Buildings should develop in line with the traditional Church year. The classic example would be “Harvest Festival”. This links the Church to community and provides direct food support back to the community. Maximise community benefit and where necessary dial down the church service element.

4. New roles for St. Mary’s should be appropriate to the functions carried out Kirkby Lonsdale’s other venues. The Institute already provides a venue for an indoor market and a Voting Office for example. The Market square already provides a venue for a town market. There are already many restaurants and pubs to feed and water people. St.Mary’s new additional roles should not try to compete with the other venues and where a mirroring function does exist in the future, the Church should portray the moral high ground to maintain the traditional church function image.

5. New roles should direct the physical buildings not including St. Mary’s Church. Once the new roles have been decided for all of the venues, the most appropriate cost effective and long term solution for the housing of the new role should be agreed, designed and if necessary built. Outside of St. Mary’s Church

itself, it is suggested that significant freedom of action exists here to modernise buildings, build new buildings, remove old expensive inefficient buildings. So if a cultural centre was to be created, a new building on a green field site may be the best option in the long term.

6. New Roles should reflect the traditional trident of Government-Church-State. The Church roles should continue to support the nationally recognised consistencies of Government – Church - State. So it is suggested that political speeches may not be a role for St. Mary's that would be easily accepted by the community. Legal/Police talks and displays may be similar - hard to say.