

Report to the St Matthews, Birchills and Leamore LNP

Tuesday 12th July

Update on the former Mellish Road Methodist Church

The Council is currently using all the options available to it to bring about the conservation of this key gateway site.

At present the Council is continuing its negotiations with the owners to try and resolve the situation. The Council has been approached by a number of organisations interested in the site and the Council has passed all the relevant contact details to the owners.

The Council is aware and shares concerns relating to the security of the site. At a recent meeting with the owner this point was raised and the owner undertook to make the site and the building secure within a timescale that is satisfactory to the Council. In addition it was agreed that the roof coverings on the rear section of the church will be replaced so that no further damage is caused to this section of the building through water ingress.

The Council will shortly be commissioning a full structural survey on the church to establish whether the site is stable or not. This, in addition to a previously commissioned condition survey, will help to inform the Council as to the level of remedial work that will be required to bring the church back into a useable condition and to inform the Council's future options.

Once this has been established it is the intention of the Council to serve a Repairs Notice on the owners of the church. A report has already been presented to Cabinet and approval given to do this. A Repairs Notice is a legal notice which will require the owners to carry out the necessary repairs within a specified time.