

Building Project Update 2 – 01/12/2013:

Dear Fellowship,

Since the last project update back in October, we have seen some real progress in the life of our building project, culminating in achieving the major milestone of being granted planning permission for the new building design (see: http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/apps/detail.asp?ref_no=APP/2013/3445)

There has been a lot of hard work from AKA and PBC to get to this stage:

In early October we invited our local neighbours and councillors to come along to one of two open events (11th & 12th October) to view and discuss the new building design. Around 10% of the invited homes attended, with lots of positive but also challenging discussions. The general view of the neighbours was favourable, with some being very impressed at the design and vision. But there is also a common concern about car parking and road safety in the area, some of which we may be able to alleviate by the new design, and others by parking considerately.

On the 24th October our planning application was formally submitted by AKA to Aberdeenshire Council for review and consideration. As part of the process AKA prepared a robust documentation package, which included all the appropriate drawings and design statement which summarised the architectural intentions and language of the design. These are due to be uploaded to the church website and hardcopies displayed in the back of the church.

The building project even made the *Buchan Observer* paper and its website this month.

Earlier this week (28th November) Aberdeenshire council updated their website to indicate the planning application decision as 'Granted'. There were no public representations or comments submitted to Aberdeenshire council against the application and only a few recommendations from the Roads department (again about road safety). Aberdeenshire Council will still have to formalise this decision by issue of a letter / report to AKA and PBC which we expect will be available shortly.

So what happens next?

There is still a lot of work to do to prepare for the next stage of the project. This will include another thorough review and evaluation of the design and discussions with all the group, team and committee leaders, and of course raise the money (for further details on donating to the project please see Michael Ritchie or Carol Addison).

For further information take a look at our new Building Project website: <http://www.peterheadbaptist.org/building>

With thanks
Ross Gillespie