



St Lawrence Church

LECHLADE-ON-THAMES



God bless you all and many thanks¹

December 2021

Version 6

Lechlade St Lawrence PCC

¹ One of the comments received

Contents

Summary	3
1. Introduction	8
2. Background to the consultation	9
3. Methodology	10
3.1. Timeline	10
3.2. Notification	10
3.3. The presentation	10
3.4. Attendees	11
3.5. Questionnaire	11
3.6. Individual and group consultations	12
4. Results	13
4.1. Questionnaires returned	13
4.2. Population analysis	13
4.3. Results by question	14
4.3.1. Section A: An open and welcoming space	14
4.3.2. Section B: A level access for all abilities - north porch to the communion rail	15
4.3.3. Section C: Shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building	16
4.3.4. Section D: Efficient energy use which meets the zero-carbon reduction target by 2030 16	
4.3.5. Section E: Heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes	17
4.3.6. Section F: Facilities to support worship and events	17
4.3.7. Summary questions	18
4.4. Key outcomes	18
4.5. Chairs	20
4.6. Floor finish	21
5. Comments received	22
5.1. Summary	22
5.2. Comments on the questionnaire	23
5.3. Comments by topic	24
5.4. Comments on Church Cottage	26
5.5. Multi-use of the ringing chamber	28

6. Next steps	29
Appendix A1 – Comments log: Supportive – Positive	30
Appendix A2 – Comments log: Supportive - Constructive	39
Appendix A3 – Comments log: Not supportive – Constructive	54
Appendix A4 – Comments log: Not Supportive - Negative	69
Appendix B– Results from the 2018 consultation	75
Appendix C – Consultation publications	79

Summary

This is the largest consultation carried out by St Lawrence Church Parochial Church Council (PCC) and for all those who took the time to visit the presentation, read the information provided and complete the questionnaire, we sincerely thank you.

Background

The initial consultation for the restoration and reordering of St Lawrence Church, Lechlade, carried out in October 2018, provided overwhelming support for the project objectives – restore the building for the next 120 years, support worship and wellbeing of the church, enable flexible use of the building for all services and events, create access for all abilities and provide enhanced facilities including toilets, enhanced kitchen and an improved audio-visual system. This initial consultation was carried out over four weeks. We received 119 completed questionnaires and there was overwhelming support for the proposals. The results from this consultation are included in Appendix B.

To achieve these objectives, the Project Inspire team together with its conservation architects, and with support from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), has developed a design which encapsulates all the objectives within the existing church.

Objective

The 2021 consultation was carried out to seek views from the church community and the wider population on whether the presentation of the design met the above objectives supported in the 2018 consultation.

We received a range of suggestions and professional advice which were used in the development of the proposals. The presentation in the church represented the outcome of this process which has the support of the PCC and the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

Consultation process

This report explains how we informed the community in advance of the presentation in the church through communications delivered across the town, using the church website, a display in the library window and posters on noticeboards and in shops. The report further explains how we invited visitors in small groups to view a specially prepared video, to see the presentation on various boards around the church and to test a sample of church chairs.

This report sets out the results of the responses to the questionnaire, focusing on the six main outcomes and 15 specific questions. Our analysis presents results from the whole community, from those who regularly attend church services in Lechlade and others who either do not attend church or did not provide this data. We also report on chair selection where there was much interest and significant support for one particular design.

The 2021 consultation

This presentation, including a video, display boards and sample chairs was widely advertised within the church and across the town. It was open for all to view over the period 14th September to 30th October. Some of the promotional material is included in Appendix C.

Questionnaires submitted

We received 155 responses, half from on-line responses and the other half from paper submissions. The number of questionnaires returned represents 7.1% of the population over 18; the population

over 18 in Lechlade was 2176 in 2020². For those who regularly attend St Lawrence church, the response represents 74% of those on the electoral roll.

Figure S1 - Distribution of responses by regular church attendance

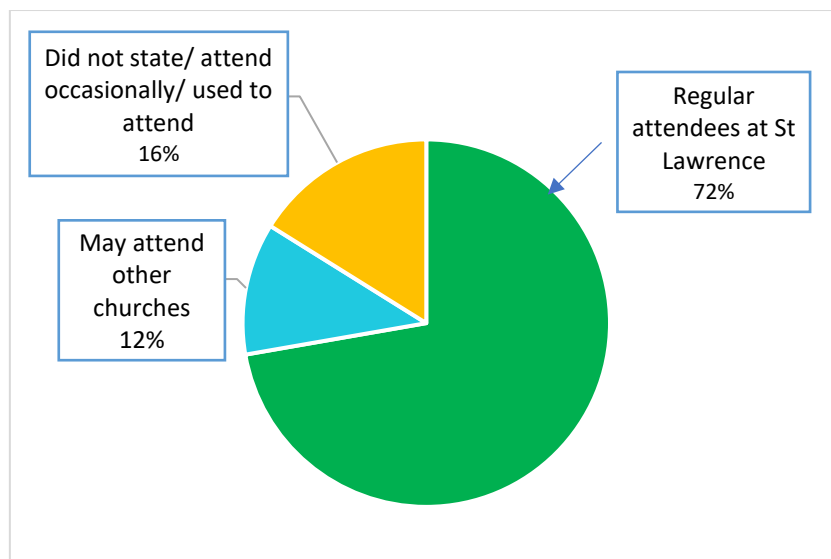
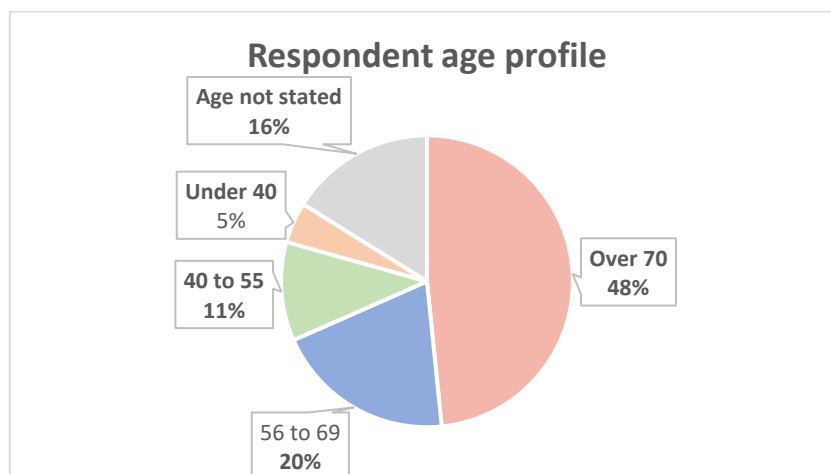


Figure S2 - Distribution of responses by age group



Overall findings

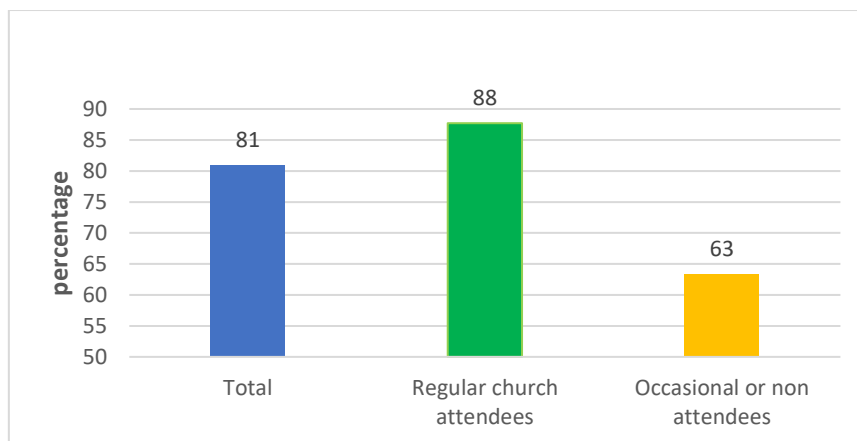
From an aggregation of responses to the 15 individual questions:

- (i) 81% of respondents supported the proposals with a range of 79% to 86.5%;
- (ii) 88% of respondents who attend church regularly supported the proposals with a range of 75% to 92%;
- (iii) 63% of respondents who attend church regularly supported the proposals with a range of 58% to 72%.

² Office of National Statistics

Figure S3 shows the **average** level of agreement from all respondees, regular church attendees and occasional or non-attendees for all 15 questions about the project components.

Figure S3 - Aggregate support for the proposals (%)



Findings by outcomes

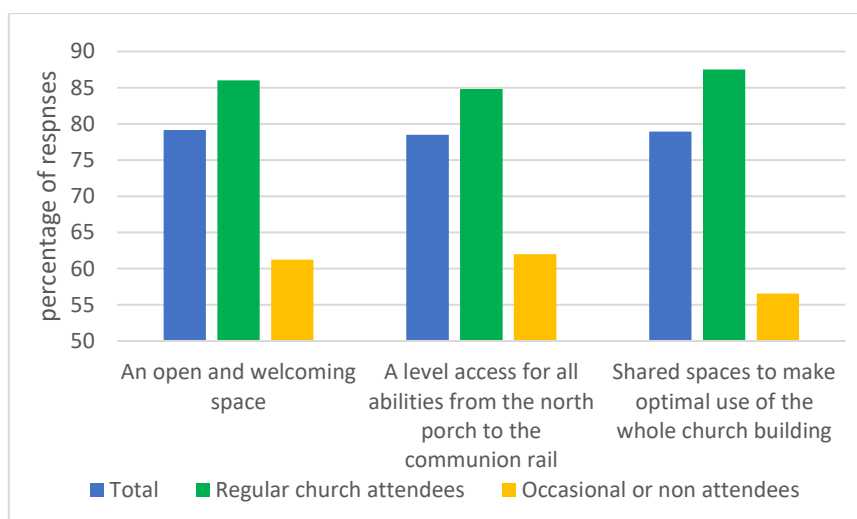
[An open and welcoming space](#) included a lighter floor finish in Purbeck limestone, new chairs to replace the existing heavy pews and relocation of the choir screen to the west gallery. This outcome was supported by 79% of all respondents and 86% of regular church attendees.

[Level access to all from the north porch to the communion rail](#) included opening the north porch a raised floor to provide level access and accessible toilets under the proposed gallery. This outcome was supported by 79% of all respondents and 85% of regular church attendees.

[Shared space to make optimal use of the whole church building](#) included the chancel, the ringing chamber, multi-use areas at the west end and combined vestry and parish office. This outcome was supported by 79% of all respondents and 88% of regular church attendees.

The response from all respondees, regular church attendees and occasional or non-attendees to these three outcomes is shown in Figure S4.

Figure S4 - Support for specific outcomes (%)



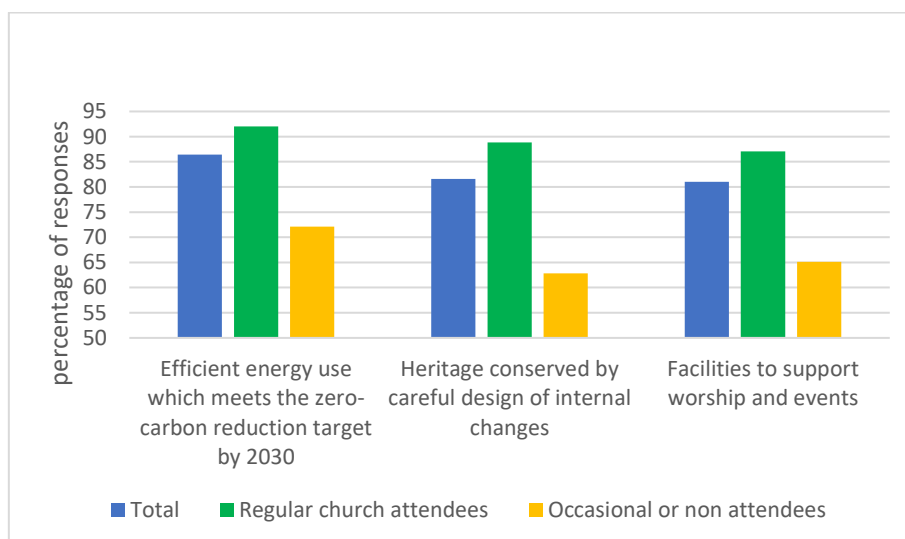
[Efficient energy use which meets the carbon reduction target](#) included an air source heat pump, underfloor heating and new and improved lighting. This outcome was supported by 86% of all respondents and 92% of regular church attendees.

[Heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes](#) included reinstatement of the west balcony, reordering of the south chapel area and restoring the south door. This outcome was supported by 82% of all respondents and 89% of regular church attendees.

[Facilities to support worship and events](#) included provision of enhanced audio-visual systems and a larger kitchen for light meals. This outcome was supported by 81% of all respondents and 87% of regular church attendees.

The response from all respondents, regular church attendees and occasional or non-attendees to these three outcomes is shown in Figure S5.

Figure S5 - Support for specific outcomes (%)



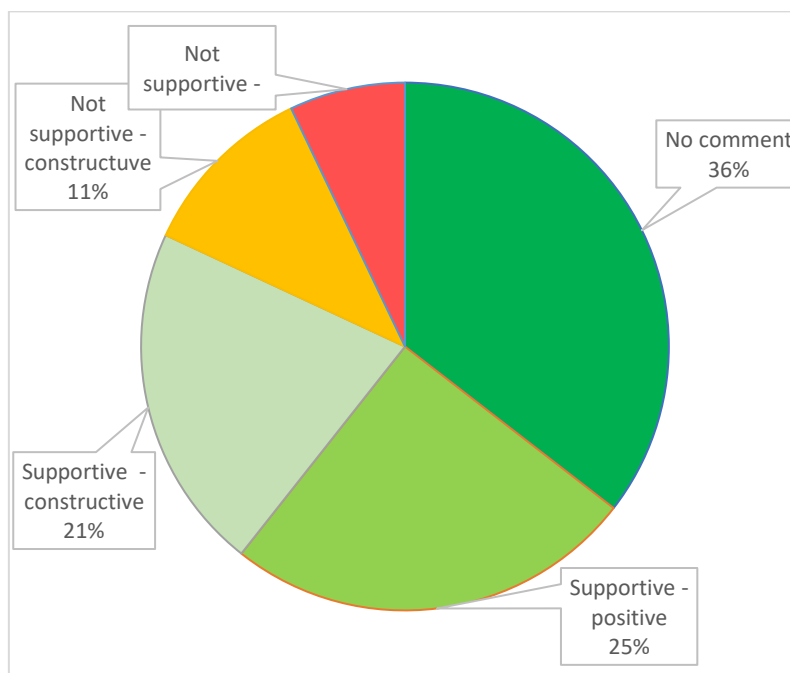
Comments

We received 100 written comments in the on-line and paper questionnaires. Figure S6 below shows the analysis of these comments by content:

- (i) Supportive - positive;
- (ii) Supportive - constructive;
- (iii) Not supportive - constructive;
- (iv) Not supportive - negative.

The extent of 'no comment' responses, predominantly positive, is also included in the analysis.

Figure S6 - Distribution of comments by category



We tested the relationship between the classification of comments and the response to the summary comments. While we noted some inconsistencies, the outcome showed support for the proposals is broadly in line with the 80% from the average individual scores.

There were further written submissions outside the questionnaires. We have taken these comments into account in our review of submissions, but these are not included in the questionnaire analysis.

There was no one topic which was significant in relation to the total responses to the survey.

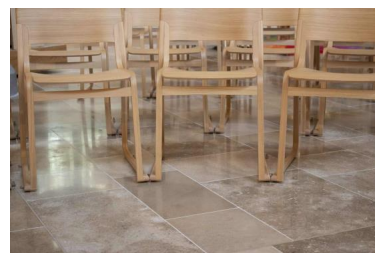
Some of the comments related to more than one topic. These ranged from chairs and pews, the north porch, screens, audio visual, heating, gallery, meeting rooms, access and the side chapel, use of the Church Cottage and costs. We comment later in the report on each of these topics and include specific responses about the Church Cottage and the use of the bell ringing chamber.

Next steps

The result of the consultation shows significant support to the reordering proposals which we shall report to the DAC. A minority of responses did raise some questions which we shall consider as we refine these proposals.

Chairs

A sample of six chairs was made available from suppliers during the presentation period. There was overwhelming support for the Theo chair, shown right.



1. Introduction

The initial consultation for the restoration and reordering of St Lawrence Church, Lechlade, carried out in October 2018 provided overwhelming support for the project objectives – restore the building for the next 120 years, support worship and wellbeing of the church, enable flexible use of the building for all services and events, create access for all abilities and provide enhanced facilities including toilets, enhanced kitchen and an improved audio-visual system.

To achieve these objectives, the Project Inspire team together with its conservation architects, and with support from the DAC, has developed a design which encapsulates all the objectives within the existing church.

This objective of the 2021 consultation was to seek views from the church community and the wider population on whether the presentation of the design met the objectives supported in the 2018 consultation.

This report explains how we informed the community in advance of the presentation in the church through communications delivered across the town, using the church website, a display in the library window and posters on noticeboards and in shops. The report further explains how we invited visitors in small groups to view a specially prepared video, to see the presentation on various boards around the church and to test a sample of church chairs.

This report sets out the results of the responses to the questionnaire, focusing on the six main outcomes and 15 specific questions. Our analysis presents results from the whole community, from those who regularly attend church services in Lechlade and others who either do not attend church or did not provide this data. We also report on chair selection where there was much interest and significant support for one particular design.

The questionnaire enabled comments to be made on-line, within the paper questionnaire or on a separate sheet of paper. We received a wide range of comments which were classified as either positive, constructive, critical or negative. We have analysed these comments and provide feedback by topic raised.

We would like to thank all those who took time to visit the presentation, complete the questionnaire and provide feedback through a wide range of comments. Your responses will help us to demonstrate the support for the proposals when we make a formal submission to the Diocese.

2. Background to the consultation

In October 2018, we carried out an initial consultation with parishioners to seek their views on the objectives of the project which were to:

- restore the building for the next 120 years;
- support worship and wellbeing of the church;
- enable flexible use of the building for all services and events;
- create access for all disabilities; and
- have enhanced facilities (for example better toilets, enhanced kitchen and an improved audio-visual system).

The consultation was in free format to allow the community to clearly express their views. There was overwhelming support (108/119 or 91%) for these objectives. We received a range of suggestions which were addressed in the development of the design. There were several concerns raised which we noted and considered in the development of the project.

Respondents commented that:

- the heating was ineffective;
- the pews were uncomfortable, heavy to move and limited the flexible use of the church;
- the lack of toilets within the church which could be accessed by all abilities;
- the choir screen presented a barrier between the congregation and clergy;
- there was a need to improve utilities and facilities including lighting and electrics, kitchen.

The feedback included suggestions to improve the church including chairs to replace the pews, provision of toilets within the church, effective heating and improved lighting, a level floor to provide level access for all abilities, a larger kitchen, Sunday school rooms in the church and an audio-visual system using the latest technology. Respondents wanted to maintain the open architectural features of the church with light open spaces, providing flexibility for a range of worship and events.

We have taken nearly three years and 37 meetings of our project group to develop a design to meet these objectives based on consultations with the DAC, discussions within our working group, professional advice from our architect, archaeologist and building services consultants. The DAC asked us to assess the feasibility of including all facilities within the church. Our architect worked through eight options derived a design which met the brief and the guidance from the DAC.

This outcome comprises five key drivers which form the basis of our project:

- (i) an open and welcoming space for flexible worship and community use;
- (ii) level access for all abilities from the re-opened north porch to the communion rail;
- (iii) shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building;
- (iv) efficient energy use towards the Church of England 'net-zero' carbon reduction target by 2030; and
- (v) heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes.

The September 2021 presentation to the church and wider community was to seek confirmation that the proposed design achieves the objectives and needs defined from the initial consultation in 2018.

3. Methodology

3.1. Timeline

The presentation was launched on 14th September for the church community and from 20th September for the wider community. The consultation period closed on 30th October although the presentation material remained in the church up to 8th November.

3.2. Notification

The church community had been regularly informed during the period between the initial consultation in 2018 and presentation of the design through regular newsletters this year.

An A5 flier was hand delivered to all residents in Lechlade in advance of the presentation from 4th September 2021. A copy of the notification is shown in Appendix C. The church community was also informed through the 'Churchsuite' communication network and at church services. Announcements and encouragement to participate also came from the pulpit. A video was shown after services.

Notification of the presentation was shown on the St Lawrence church website from 10th September 2021. A short video was included as a 'taster' to advertise the presentation. There were 2200 hits and 450 engagements on the website in advance of the presentation.

A display promoting the presentation was placed in the library window, adjacent to the church, from 10th September for three weeks.

Notices were placed on the Town Council noticeboards and in the library. An article was placed in 'The Bridge', a community magazine.

3.3. The presentation

We limited the number of visitors to the presentation at any one time to allow for one-to-one engagement, to allow study of the proposals and reduce the risk of COVID transmission. Visitors could book a presentation slot on the website; time slots were available on selected mornings, afternoons and evenings to give flexibility for all to visit. Personal contacts were used for those who did not have access to the internet.

We held 20 visitor sessions over the six weeks consultation period. There were 107 recorded visitors to the formal presentations, plus a number of informal briefings: including members of the PCC and the Project Inspire team this resulted in 113 claiming to have seen a presentation when answering the questionnaire.

The presentation commenced with a 15-minute specially prepared video which explained the need for and scope of the restoration and reordering works. This was followed by an explanation of the cost estimates and sources of funds. A team of guides took visitors around the presentations and answered questions. Five display boards set out across the church were used to show plans and photographs of earlier Georgian reordering in 1828 and Victorian reordering in 1882. The architect's design, plans, sketches and supporting information were displayed.

Six chairs of varying design were available for visitors to test and express their preferences. A sample of two floor finishes was displayed.

At the end of each presentation session, visitors were given a 12-page leaflet which explained the rationale for the proposals and detailed the specific changes proposed.

A questionnaire form was handed out; an on-line questionnaire was also available for all to complete using the ‘Survey Monkey’ program. The questionnaire was also available at the rear of the church for visitors to complete or take away.

3.4. Attendees

Table 3-1 below shows the dates and times of presentations and the number of attendees for each session.

Table 3-1 Presentation attendance

Presentation date and time	Number of attendees
14 th September 2021: 11.30am and 3.30pm	10
15 th September 2021: 2pm, 3.30pm and 6.30pm	17
16 th September 2021:3.30pm	25
17 th September 2021: 10am	2
18 th September 2021:10am	11
20 th September 2021:10am and 2pm	6
21 st September 2021:11.30am and 6.30pm	11
22 nd September 2021:10am, 11.30am and 2pm	7
24 th September 2021:10am and 11.30am	9
8 th October 2021: 2pm	2
16 th October 2021: 10am	1
25 th October 2021: 11am	6
Total	107

3.5. Questionnaire

The questionnaire was designed to seek agreement or otherwise to the reordering proposals which were developed from the outcome of the initial consultation in 2018. We have described this process in Section 2. On page 2 we asked:

‘We would like your thoughts on the outcomes. Have they been achieved, and do you support them?’

The questionnaire was in three parts:

- Part 1: This is formed of six sections, A to F, reflecting the key outcomes of the proposals comprising
 - A: An open and welcoming space
 - B: Level access to all from the north porch to the communion rail
 - C: Shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building
 - D: efficient energy use which meets the carbon reduction target
 - E: Heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes
 - F: Facilities to support worship and events

Each section included two or three questions with a total 15 questions.

Respondents were asked, having seen the presentation and reviewed the detailed proposals in the 12-page leaflet, to comment whether the proposals would meet the defined outcomes.

Respondents were also asked three summary questions:

1. whether the proposals had been well thought through;
2. whether the changes will make the church fit for purpose for years to come;
and
3. whether the changes will improve the church as a facility for all the people in the town.

Respondents were then asked if they had any concerns about the Proposals and, if so, to express any concern or comment in a comments box. The comments could be completed in the on-line questionnaire or on the paper version. Where respondents using the paper version needed more space than shown, there was an opportunity to add further comments on a separate sheet. This approach did not limit the ability of respondents to comment and 65% of all respondents did submit comments.

- Part 2: Chair designs and floor finishes: of the seven sample chairs shown on the questionnaire only six were provided by manufacturers; respondents were asked to rank selection for first, second and third choice.
- Part 3: personal details including age, church attendance by service and frequency and contact details. This is used to stratify results by age and church attendance.

3.6. Individual and group consultations

With the objective of being open and responsive, we invited three people, who were known to be not supportive of some or all of the proposals and had previously written to us, to see the presentation in August 2021. This was in advance of the formal launch. We spent some time explaining the proposals in some detail and listened to their views. They subsequently presented their constructive views in writing; these are included in Appendix A.

We also held discussions with representatives of church groups including the director of music, the Sunday school organisers and supervisors of the 'little lights' infant group in advance of the formal presentation. Feedback was positive and constructive and individual comments are included in Appendix A.

4. Results

4.1. Questionnaires returned

We received 158 completed questionnaires with 79 on-line and 79 paper submissions. This total reduced to 155 once duplications were eliminated. Three respondents signed as a couple. They were then asked if they wished their responses to be taken as a single entry or two entries. In each case the respondents requested that their responses be taken as two entries. The total 155 questionnaires included for this adjustment.

The number of questionnaires returned represents 7.1% of the population over 18; the population over 18 in Lechlade was 2176 in 2020.³ For those who regularly attend St Lawrence church, the response represents 74% of those on the electoral roll.

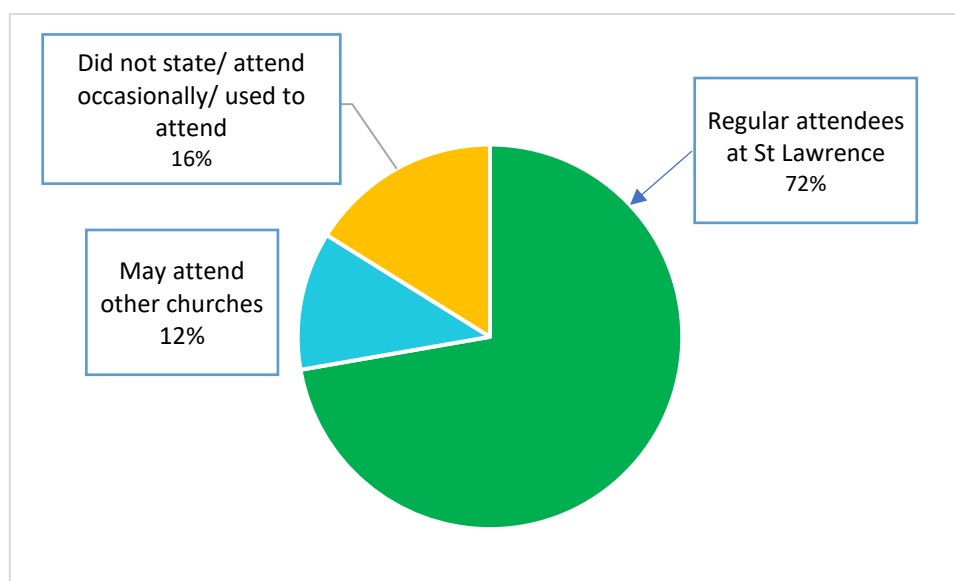
4.2. Population analysis

The questionnaire asked for personal details including attendance at the church services and frequency or attendance and age. We used this data to stratify the data.

Church attendees/ non-attendees

The analysis of church attendees is summarised in Figure 4-1.

Figure 4-1 Distribution of responses by church attendance



The data shows that 72% of respondents regularly attend Sunday services at St Lawrence, 12% may attend other services and 16% either did not state whether they attended or not or only attend occasionally. This demonstrates an overwhelming level of interest and engagement.

Visitors to the presentation

The objective of the presentation in the church was to enable the attendees to gain a good understanding of all the key elements of the proposals and ask questions prior to completing the

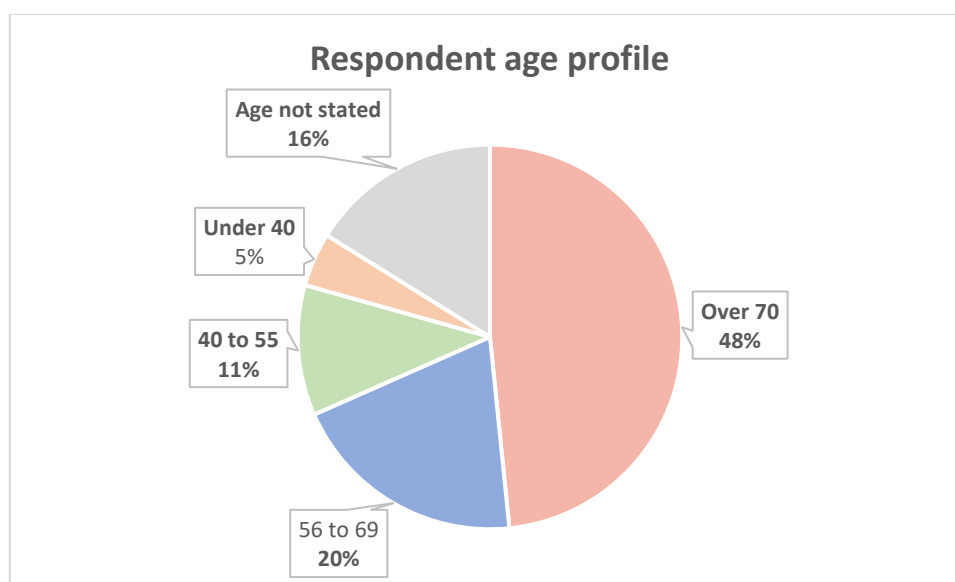
³ Office of National Statistics

questionnaire. A leaflet explaining the reasons for, and scope of the design proposals was handed out at the presentation. 113 (73%) respondents confirmed that they had viewed the presentation.

Age analysis

The distribution of responses by age is shown in Figure 4-2.

Figure 4-2 Distribution of responses by age group



The distribution is strongly skewed to the over 70's with a significant proportion in the 55 to 59 group. The number of responses in the younger age groups was smaller so these we grouped for analysis.

4.3. Results by question

Respondents were asked to tick boxes alongside the following statements if they agreed with the statements. When analysing the results, a tick is taken as agreement and the absence of a tick is taken as disagreement, although the absence of a tick may be uncertainty or disagreement. This methodology is a strong test of positive agreement.

4.3.1. Section A: An open and welcoming space

A lighter floor finish using Purbeck limestone

- *This will provide a durable, lighter and welcoming open space for worship and events, and enable unsightly radiators to be replaced with underfloor heating and all pipes and cabling removed from the side walls.*

New chairs to replace the existing heavy pews

- *The objective of having an open and flexible area for worship and events is currently constrained by the existing pews.*

Relocate the choir screen to the west balcony

- *For the three centuries between the Reformation in the 16th Century and the 1881 reordering the space between the nave and chancel was clear with an unobstructed view of the altar, the officiating priest and the east window. Relocation will contribute to the open and light nature of the church.*

Summary questions (%)	Total sample		Church attendees		Non attendees/ unspecified	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
The church will become more open and welcoming	74.8	25.2	83.0	17.0	53.5	46.5
The space within the church will be more flexible	85.8	14.2	90.2	9.8	74.4	25.6
The provision of chairs will provide greater comfort and flexibility	76.8	23.2	84.8	15.2	55.8	44.2
An open and welcoming space	79.1	20.9	86.0	14.0	61.2	38.8

4.3.2. Section B: A level access for all abilities - north porch to the communion rail

Opening the north porch

- *The return of the north porch as the main church entrance will provide a welcome light entrance to the church. The length of Shelley's Walk from the Market Place will be re-laid with level access while retaining the heritage of the area.*

A new raised floor to provide level access

- *This returns the floor level near to the pre-1881 reordering. The floor will enable level, step free, access for all abilities from all entrances to the chancel.*

Accessible and standard toilets under the proposed balcony

- *The existing toilets in the cottage are not accessible. The design allows easy and discreet access to toilets at the west end of the church.*
-

Summary questions (%)	Total sample		Church attendees		Non attendees/ unspecified	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
The re-opening of the north porch will provide a welcoming light entrance	71.0	29.0	78.6	21.4	51.2	48.8
Access and facilities for all abilities will be improved	81.9	18.1	87.5	12.5	67.4	32.6
The provision of toilets within the church is important	82.6	17.4	88.4	11.6	67.4	32.6
A level access for all abilities from the north porch to the communion rail	78.5	21.5	84.8	15.2	62.0	38.0

4.3.3. Section C: Shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building

The Chancel

- *Replacing the choir stalls with modern lighter furniture will provide a flexible area with seating facing east for Holy Communion, a north-south arrangement for choir and west facing for concerts.*

The ringing chamber

- *Using the ringing chamber for Sunday school, meetings and other activities when not used for ringing, with appropriate security of use, ropes and equipment*

The addition of west end multi-use areas:

- *A large flexible space is provided below the gallery and a further area on the ground floor of the west tower.*

The combined vestry and parish office

- *The parish office, open during the week, will be located in the re-ordered vestry with improved access directly from Shelley’s Walk. The vestry will continue to be used on Sundays and for special services.*

Summary questions (%)	Total sample		Church attendees		Non attendees/ unspecified	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Reordering of the chancel will provide greater flexibility for worship and events	80.0	20.0	86.6	13.4	62.8	37.2
Having several meeting rooms within the church will be a good improvement	77.4	22.6	84.8	15.2	58.1	41.9
Moving the Parish Office to the vestry will make it more accessible	79.4	20.6	91.1	8.9	48.8	51.2
Shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building	78.9	21.1	87.5	12.5	56.6	43.4

4.3.4. Section D: Efficient energy use which meets the zero-carbon reduction target by 2030

Air source heat pump

- *This will be powered by renewable electricity from the grid allowing us to retire the existing gas boilers over time.*

Underfloor heating

- *This will provide an even distribution of heat across the church to improve the comfort of worshippers and those at events. This will be built into the new floor above the existing limecrete and tile floor*

Lighting

- *New lighting provides the opportunity to reconfigure for various configurations using LED lighting providing a brighter light with less energy use.*

Summary questions (%)	Total sample		Church attendees		Non attendees/ unspecified	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
The church will be warmer and more comfortable	85.2	14.8	91.1	8.9	69.8	30.2
A responsible approach is being taken to be energy efficient and reduce carbon	87.7	12.3	92.9	7.1	74.4	25.6
Efficient energy use which meets the zero-carbon reduction target by 2030	86.5	13.6	92.0	8.0	72.1	27.9

4.3.5. Section E: Heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes

The gallery

- *Reinstating the west balcony which was in place prior to 1881. This provides additional seating and enables a multi-use space, kitchen and toilets to be provided underneath. The balcony structure will be independent of the church building*

The south chapel area

- *Holy communion services will be provided from the main altar The chapel area will form part of the south aisle providing greater flexibility in use while being retained as a quiet area for prayer. The new floor level will continue into this area.*

The south door

- *This will be opened to provide an emergency access. The door is in poor condition and restoration will provide a weatherproof opening with no significant draughts.*

Summary questions (%)	Total sample		Church attendees		Non attendees/ unspecified	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
The essential heritage of the church has been conserved	75.5	24.5	84.8	15.2	51.2	48.8
The church will retain its historic appearance from the outside	87.7	12.3	92.9	7.1	74.4	25.6
Heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes	81.6	18.4	88.85	11.15	62.8	37.2

4.3.6. Section F: Facilities to support worship and events

Audio-visual

- *The provision of discreet enhanced audio-visual facilities to support worship while recognising the heritage of the building*

Kitchen

- *An enclosed area to provide for light meals and refreshments with the latest facilities including oven and dishwasher. This replaces the existing open and restricted kitchen in the north-west area*

Summary questions (%)	Total sample		Church attendees		Non attendees/ unspecified	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Improved audio-visual equipment will improve services and be a benefit to all	79.4	20.6	85.7	14.3	62.8	37.2
Better kitchen facilities will improve social events and after-service refreshments	82.6	17.4	88.4	11.6	67.4	32.6
Facilities to support worship and events	81.0	19.0	87.1	13.0	65.1	34.9

4.3.7. Summary questions

Summary questions (%)	Total sample		Church attendees		Non attendees/ unspecified	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Overall, the proposals have been well thought-through	76.1	23.9	84.8	15.2	53.5	46.5
The changes will make the church fit for many decades to come 1	77.4	22.6	83.8	16.1	60.5	39.5
The changes will improve the church as a facility for all the people of the town	72.9	27.1	78.6	21.4	58.1	41.9
Overall support for the proposals	75.5	24.5	83.4	17.6	57.3	42.7
<i>I am concerned about some aspects of the proposals</i>	38.7		36.6		44.2	

Respondents were asked to include any comments or concern about the proposals in a free-form response on the on-line questionnaire, on the hard copy or by separate letter. We discuss comments raised in Section 5 – Comments.

4.4. Key outcomes

Overall support for the proposals

Across the 15 statements in the questionnaire, the average level of agreement with the proposals is:

- 80.5% across all questionnaires;

- 87.4% across church attendees; and
- 62.6% across non-attendees and unspecified.

For all questionnaires, the range of responses was not significant, from 87.7% to 71%. Similarly, the range for church attendees was 92.8% to 78.6%.

Across the three summary statements in the questionnaire, the average level of agreement with the proposals is:

- 75.5% across all questionnaires;
- 82.4% across church attendees; and
- 57.3 % across non-attendees and unspecified.

Note that 72% of respondents regularly attend Sunday services at St Lawrence, 12% may attend other services and 16% did not state whether they attended or not or only attend occasionally.

Age Group

Across the 15 statements in the questionnaire, the average level of agreement with the proposals is:

- 82% for those aged 70 and above;
- 93% for those aged 56 to 69; and
- 83% from those aged under 55.

Note that 16% of respondents did not disclose their age. The positive response from the 56 to 59 age group is significantly above the other age groups.

Across the three summary statements in the questionnaire, the average level of agreement with the proposals is:

- 75.5% across all questionnaires;
- 82.4% across church attendees;
- 57.3 % across non-attendees and unspecified.

Significant findings

- The results amongst 112 regular attendees at St Lawrence are significantly higher than those amongst 43 non-attendees/unspecified: this applies across all the statements.
- The strongest level of agreement at 87.7% is with statements D2 (responsible approach to energy efficiency) E2 (historic appearance from outside retained)) followed at 85.8% by A2 (space more flexible) and at 85.2% by D1 (will be warmer and more comfortable).
 - This is reasonably consistent by the attendance and by the age group splits.
- The weakest level of agreement at 71% is with statement B1 (opening the north porch) followed by 74.8% for A1 (more open and welcoming) and 75.5% for E1 (essential heritage conserved).
 - This is reasonably consistent by the attendance and age group splits except amongst the 55 and under who rate statements B1 and C2 (several meeting rooms an improvement) the lowest.

Analysis of summary statements

A useful way of interpreting the results is to examine the level of agreement across the 3 summary statements: 3 ticks **scores** 3, 2 ticks **score** 2, 1 tick **scores** 1 and no ticks **scores** 0, the results are as shown in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4-1 Analysis of summary statements

Score	Total sample (%)	Church attendees (%)	Non attendees/ unspecified (%)
3	72	79	44
2	4	4	7
1	8	5	21
0	16	12	28

This indicates that 79% of regular church attendees are very positive about the proposals, 9% are partly supportive and 12% are negative.

These numbers change significantly amongst non-attendees/unspecified: to 44% positive, 28% are partly supportive and 28% negative. A very likely explanation of this is that those objecting have been more motivated to fill in questionnaires in order to make their views known.

Summary

Questionnaires were received from 155 respondents, 112 (72%) were regular church attendees, 18 (12%) may attend other churches and 25 (16%) did not attend or attended occasionally. The average level of agreement for all 15 questions about the project proposals was 80.5%, increasing to 87.4% for regular church attendees. The average level of agreement for non-attendees was a lower 62.6%.

Response to the three summary questions was lower with 75.5% across all questionnaires, 82.4% across church attendees and 57.3 % across non-attendees and unspecified.

4.5. Chairs

A sample of six chairs was provided at the presentation and visitors were given the opportunity to view and test the chairs and indicate their preference as a first, second and third choice. Not all respondents indicated their preference amongst the six chairs available to try or showed their preferences. The results are shown in the table below.

Table 4-2 Preference of chair designs

Chair design	First choice	Second choice	Third choice
Theo	74	9	3
Howe	10	25	12
Bethel	14	12	5
Abbey	4	14	16
Southwell	4	6	8
St Mary's	1	5	7

We had hoped to include a seventh chair, the Christ Church, which was shown on the questionnaire but was not provided by the manufacturer.



The feedback showed a clear preference for the Theo chair (manufactured by Trinity Church Furniture) shown in the picture left.

4.6. Floor finish

Two samples of limestone flooring were included in the presentation comprising a Purbeck and Aston. There was insufficient feedback to draw any conclusions on preference.

5. Comments received

5.1. Summary

In this section we summarise the number of comments received and the specific areas of the proposals to which they refer. Comments were received from 100 respondents. We have classified these comments as:

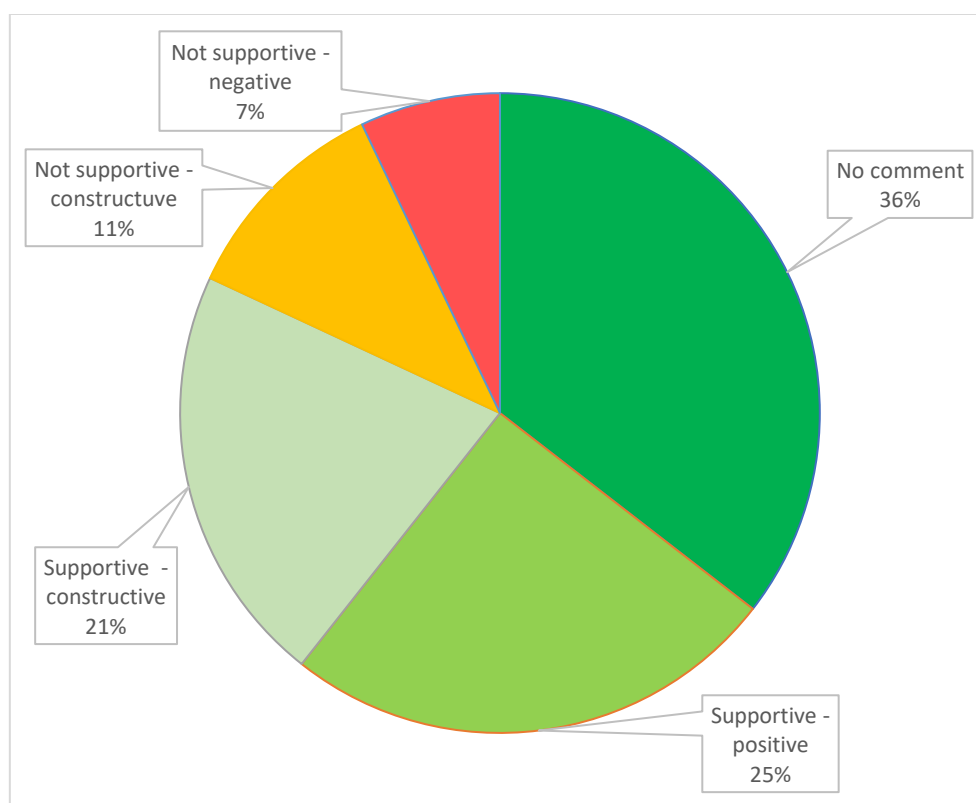
- Supportive - positive;
- Supportive - constructive;
- Non-supportive - constructive; and
- Non-supportive - negative.

Supportive constructive is where respondents have given some thought to the proposals and made helpful suggestions.

Non-supportive constructive is where respondents have given some thought to the proposals, and presented rational comments, some supporting elements of the proposals.

Data is summarised in the Figure 5.1 below.

Figure 5-1 Distribution of comments by category



We tested the relationship between the classification of comments and the response to the summary comments. While we noted some inconsistencies, the outcome showed support for the proposals is broadly in line with the 80% from the average individual scores.

There were further written submissions outside the questionnaires, both supportive and not supportive. These were where we initiated separate meetings with individuals who had showed specific interest in the proposals. We have taken these comments into account in our review of submissions, but these are not included in the questionnaire analysis.

Comments related to a wide range of topics; some included several topics; this increased the number of topic comments to 250. Some non-supportive respondents supported some elements of the proposals. The most frequent comments are summarised in Table 5-1 below.

Each comment is included in Appendices A1 to A4 classified as supportive - positive, supportive - constructive, not supportive constructive and not supportive - negative. The classification is based on each completed questionnaire and not necessarily on the individual comments shown. The following sections provide additional detail on the nature of the comments; we respond to specific topics which have generated some but not a significant number of comments.

We thank all respondents for taking the time to express their comments, both supportive and not supportive, on the proposals. These are helpful as we refine the proposals. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.

5.2. Comments on the questionnaire

We received seven comments on the design of the questionnaire, stating that it was structured to affirm previously made decisions and as such it did not give the respondents the opportunity to dissent from statements made.

In Section 2 of this report, we explain the background to the presentation. We state that the September 2021 presentation to the church and wider community was to seek confirmation that the proposed design achieves the objectives and needs defined from and strongly supported by the initial consultation in 2018.

The design of the questionnaire was undertaken by a market research professional with over 30 years' experience at a very senior level in the industry. His view is that whatever form of questionnaire is used there is always the potential for respondents to feel bias and this always shows when the respondent strongly objects to whatever is being assessed.

The objective of the questionnaire is to establish if Project Inspire is meeting its objectives. By ticking boxes which relate to specific aspects of the project, respondents indicate if they agree that the objectives are met. By not ticking boxes they indicate that they are not sure or do not agree that the objectives are met. The questionnaire ends with an opportunity to raise any concern in a completely unconstrained open-ended way, on the website, on the hard copy or on additional sheets of paper. There were a high number of comments received, both supportive and not supportive, which took the opportunity to express their comments in their own words.

The great majority of respondents have responded enthusiastically to the project and to the tick box questionnaire. Others who have a concern or do not support elements of or all the proposals have also responded with detailed comments.

It should be borne in mind that the original consultation in 2018 asked for (open ended) views on the restoration and reordering of the church. The object of this 2021 questionnaire is to ask people what they think of the plan which has been developed in response to that initial consultation. The objection should be reviewed in the context of the overall response.

5.3. Comments by topic

Several respondents included a range of topics within their comments, both supportive and non-supportive. These comments related to a wide range of topics which increased the number of topic comments. Some non-supportive respondents supported some elements of the proposals. The most frequent comments are listed in Table 5-1 below with the related number of total topic comments.

Table 5-1 Analysis of comments

Comment topic	Number of topic comments
None	55
Positive	25
Chairs and pews	17
Costs	15
North porch and door	11
Screens	15
Audio visual	12
Church Cottage	12
Multi-use of ringing chamber	8
Heating	8
Questionnaire	7
Gallery	7
Meeting rooms	7
Access	6
Side chapel	5

Note one comment may relate to more than one topic

There was no one topic which was significant in relation to the total responses to the survey.

Each comment is included in Appendices A1 to A4 classified as supportive - positive, supportive - constructive, not supportive constructive and not supportive - negative. The following sections provide additional detail on the nature of the comments.

We received a wide range of comments from respondents. We address the main areas of comment by order of the number of comments. In Section 5.4 we summarise comments raised about Church Cottage. In Section 5.5 we summarise comments on shared use of the bell ringing chamber.

Respondents raised several helpful comments on details of the presentation. We have noted these comments and will take these into account when developing the detailed design.

Chairs and pews (17)

From the 17 comments related to replacement of the pews and provision of chairs

- six supported the replacement of pews with chairs;
- five thought that the pews should remain;
- three had comments about the chair design; and
- three commented on the disposal of the pews.

These comments can be put in the context of question A3 - *The provision of chairs will provide greater comfort and flexibility* where 84.8% of regular church attendees and 76.8% of all respondees supported this proposal. There were 107 respondees who selected a preferred chair.

Cost estimate (15)

A cost estimate was included in the presentation and details were placed on the website. The cost was built up from detailed estimates and quotations and our best central estimate; this was compared with similar works at St Lawrence church, Bourton on the Water.

- seven comments thought the estimate was low or that insufficient contingency was applied;
- three comments said there was no mention of costs or costs were not available (we provided this information at the presentation and on-line); and
- seven respondents thought the project was a waste of money, although two of these supported improved heating, lighting and floor.

We continue to update our cost estimate as design details are finalised, and more information becomes available.

North porch and door (11)

Re-opening the north door provides a restored access to the church which many of the church community would not have used. This was supported by 78.6% of regular churchgoers and 71.0% of all respondents.

- four comments supported the proposal;
- two raised matters of detail about the design;
- three comments were opposed to the re-opening; and
- two comments raised the issue of high numbers of people leaving the church after services.

We commented in the presentation that the west (and south) doors will be open before and after large services to reduce congestion at any one exit.

One respondent asked why we had not considered reinstating the gallery over the north aisle.

Choir screen (14)

The proposal is to relocate the late-Victorian choir screen to the rear of the gallery to provide a clear and unobstructive view of the altar, minister, and the east window as explained in the presentation.

- eight comments supported the relocation of the screen;
- four comments asked for the screen to be retained; and
- two comments related to the side screens

These comments can be put in the context of question A3 - *The church will become more open and welcoming* - where 83% of regular church attendees and 75% of all respondees supported this proposal.

There were a couple of comments about removing the south side screen to provide greater flexibility to the south chapel area for sharing space. We shall review this issue as part of developing the detailed design.

Audio-visual (12)

Nearly all comments support the provision of suitable audio-visual facilities for worship and events. The comments focus on the detail of the arrangements including effective but discreet equipment. These comments will be addressed within the detailed design.

Heating (8)

There were eight specific comments on heating; all were supportive with constructive comments including from some who were not supportive of other elements of the proposals. These comments can be put in the context of question D1 - *The church will be warmer and more comfortable* - where 91% of regular church attendees and 85% of all respondents supported this proposal.

Gallery (8)

The proposal is to reinstate the west gallery, which was in place prior to 1881, to provide additional seating and enable a multi-use space, kitchen and toilets to be provided underneath.

There were eight comments, two related to the design of the gallery. The other six comments were concerned about the impact of the new gallery on the architecture of the west end of the church and the entrance through the west door.

These comments can be put in the context of question E1 - *The essential heritage of the church has been conserved* - where 85% of regular church attendees and 76% of all respondents supported this proposal.

Meeting rooms (7)

Two comments supported the use of meeting rooms to accommodate church activities. One comment was against the use of the ringing chamber for the use of small groups. Four respondents thought that there was no need for rooms as the town's Memorial Hall and its facilities could be used.

We confirm that the meeting spaces are primarily for use by the church before, during and after services and for other events linked to the church.

Access (6)

Five comments supported the improved access proposals and referred in particular to the steps up from the nave to the choir. One comment thought we should have a ramped access.

These comments can be put in the context of question B2 – *Access and facilities for all abilities will be improved* - where 82% of regular church attendees and 82% of all respondents supported this proposal.

South Chapel (5)

There were five comments which expressed concern about the loss of the Blaise chapel; some thought it should be retained for private prayer.

5.4. Comments on Church Cottage

There were 12 comments on the use of the Church Cottage. Six commented that the building was unsuitable. For example:

- *It is sometimes very difficult to encourage young or new children to go into groups, because they have to leave the building and go across the side of the marketplace into the Cottage. This is unsettling for both children and parents and means that some families never really start doing that.*

- *We face issues of accessibility for Sunday Groups for children taking place in the Cottage. At present there is only one usable room on the ground floor with level access, which means there are always young children using the steep staircase to get to rooms and then back down to the bathrooms. This has presented difficulties on occasions, not least of which [...] son was disabled and, in a wheelchair, and we had a child with another disability in groups, who could not use the top floor and who also needed assistance in the bathroom, which was very difficult in the current standard toilets.*
- *A group of predominantly elderly women have met every Monday afternoon for many years in the church cottage but are now unable to meet on St Lawrence property. About 25 have signed up to take part this term (Autumn 2021), which is too many people even to split between the ground and first floor of the Cottage (where we have always met until we went online with covid) - particularly given that a number of them have mobility problems and the staircase is too dangerous/difficult for them. The alternative of meeting in the church building is not feasible because of the impracticality of trying to arrange 25 people in pews who could hear each other in a discussion.*

The other six comments asked why we had not considered improvements to the cottage

- *With sufficient creativity and advocacy believe church cottage could be made a greater asset, linked by an imaginative sheltered but open design walkway.*
- *We have all the facilities we would need in church cottage and while I would agree it needs a great deal of work, it will give new life to the cottage and become an asset to the Church.*
- *the existence of the cottage which could with effort be adapted.*

These comments can be put in the context of question C2 - *Having several meeting rooms within the church will be a good improvement* - where 85% of regular church attendees and 77% of all respondees supported this proposal.

We explained at the presentation that we had consulted with Cotswold District Council which stated that

- *Any external addition to the north porch [including an open design walkway] would cause significant harm to the church and churchyard and most unlikely to receive approval from the DAC. The clear message from the DAC was to avoid any changes to the exterior elevations of the church.*
- *The proposal would be harmful to the character of the listed cottage and potentially the church as well. Any such change would require very substantial justification to show why any public benefits would outweigh the harm to the historic environment.*
- *The removal of an original staircase and the removal of original flooring may also prove problematic. It is unlikely that Listed Building Consent would be given to modify the ground floor to such an extent as to make it fully accessible as this would harm the character of the listed building.*

The DAC advised that

- *It would seem entirely sensible to focus your attentions on creating accessible multi-functional community-based facilities within the church, possibly at the West and associated areas of the side aisles whilst respecting the light, slender and simple aesthetic*

of the interior. Bringing people into the church and giving it facilities, which can help to sustain it long into the future would be highly desirable’.

5.5. Multi-use of the ringing chamber

The concept is to share equitably the limited space we have in the church so that all can benefit for worship, mission and other activities including bell ringing. The bell ringing chamber provides a space not just for ringing but for small groups such as the Sunday School. We consider that use of the ringing chamber makes sense - even though it is unlikely to be used much outside ringing/Sunday School times it is nevertheless a handy facility to have available.

We held two meetings with representatives of the bell ringers in April 2020 and May 2021, in advance of the formal presentation. We explained the proposals and discussed detailed arrangements. A note of the May meeting is included in the faculty (document PI 21).

We received eight comments on the use of the bell ringing chamber, one supportive and the others concerned about the safety and logistics of sharing the space.

The main issue is the assessment and managing of risk through a rational methodology which is well-tested across workplaces. Appropriate security measures such as preventing access to the bell ropes by unauthorised people are proposed. A protocol to manage the use of the chamber has been drafted.

We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. They advised that appropriate security arrangements can be readily put in place to enable secure shared use of the room. We have prepared a draft protocol which cover arrangements for the sharing of the room which we have provided to the bell ringers for further discussion.

These comments can be put in the context of question C2 - *Having several meeting rooms within the church will be a good improvement* - where 85% of regular church attendees and 77% of all respondees supported this proposal.

The Lechlade bell ringers submitted comments on the proposals in August 2021, via the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers (GDDACBR), outside the structured consultation process and before seeing and discussing the proposals. We have replied in detail to their comments outside this report.

6. Next steps

The result of the consultation shows significant support to the reordering proposals which we shall report to the DAC. A minority of responses did raise some questions which we shall consider as we refine these proposals.

Appendix A1 – Comments log: Supportive – Positive

Number	Comment	Topic	Project Inspire response	ref
A1	As the heating lighting and flooring needed attention, agree it is opportune to make the other changes. The relocation of the parish office and toilets is very welcome.	Toilets	Noted with thanks	65
	I am convinced that the changes will entice more people into church either in congregation size or more general usage) whatever these uses turn out to be). Thank you to the project team for their hard work and for allowing comment on these proposals	Greater attendance	Noted with thanks	
A2	The proposed re-ordering plans show a sympathetic view to updating the church whilst retaining all of the wonderful historic features.	Heritage +	Noted with thanks	66
A3	I feel this restoration and reordering is an essential part of our duty to the present congregation, and future generations. It must go ahead.	Positive	Noted with thanks	67
A4	I do not totally agree with the use of audio-visual facilities in worship	Audio visual	Noted. AV facilities will be available although its use will depend on the form of worship	68
A5	First of all, I would like to say how well I thought the Inspire Presentations were run. The enthusiasm of the presenters was infectious! it will be an exciting and brilliant new step for our Church. I did wonder if I could raise a query about the spaces allocated for children's groups and the creche. I'm coming to this having been involved in both for many years and in different Churches - as well as with my retired teacher's hat on. I assume that we are praying for new families and children to join us in the near future and through the Seeds of Faith mission. Without new members St Lawrence will look very empty within two decades! I notice that the gallery is allocated as a new area - but obviously this won't be appropriate for children - safety issues spring to mind, not to mention the noise! The two tower rooms are quite small and not practical for younger children who need space plus tables and chairs etc. They would probably suit older children. The large multi-functional space downstairs (18) is perfect for youngsters especially with access to the kitchen. It will also suit the Little Lights Mums and	Sunday school	Noted with thanks These suggestions will be helpful in developing the detailed design	69

	<p>Toddlers group which meet in the Church - but has carpet been considered for this area as a warmer and softer surface for toddlers? Or maybe large colourful beanbags which could be used here and also in the children's services? The lower tower room will be great as an additional room to the large one - but is there any daylight in there? Also, if this little room was being considered as a creche room, can I say that - having been made to sit in isolated spaces for many years as a Mum - I think that it would put families off. Forgive me for rambling on and on! How about these ideas? I do see that at the end of the balcony - opposite to where the stairs come up - is a wider space which overlooks the nave. Would it be possible to create a glass cube here - like the entrance one? Slightly higher glass - and a door - would create an enclosed and safe area for e.g., creche Mums and Dads who could still hear and see the services whilst being, mainly, out of ear shot. Having little one's upstairs is not ideal but with parents involved in an enclosed space they would be safe. Pushchairs would have to stay downstairs - is there a space for these? This enclosed 'room' could also double up as a retreat space for teenagers and the oldest groups if not in use. Perhaps a couple of settees could be installed?! I've also been chatting to my husband who suggested that another room could be constructed above the entrance, glazed lobby. This would provide a room for older children's activities - leaving the younger one's downstairs and away from the balcony! All these thoughts have been going around my head - thank you for letting me air them! Coming from a Church in Cirencester which had up to 100 children being catered for in a service (!) I recognise that we need to encourage and 'house' youngsters and their families in appropriate places so that they will hear the good news about the Lord - otherwise we will lose them.</p>			
A6	<p>I am really looking forward to the balcony and being able to have Sunday school in church. It will be easier for events for my age group like holiday clubs.</p>	Sunday school	Noted with thanks	70
A7	<p>I like the proposal because it makes the church more inviting and accessible to younger and older age groups, as well as facilitating to disabled people and young families who might be discouraged by the uneven floors etc.</p>	Access	Noted with thanks. Access for all abilities is a key feature of the proposals	71

	I also believe it will encourage non- church goers as the building will be less imposing and intimidating and much more inviting and warmer. Having the capacity for youth groups and meetings in the church is a great thing and having eco- friendly power is a bonus.	More inviting	Noted with thanks	
A8	Super scheme to provide a place of worship for many years to come - best of luck with this project. It looks as though you are striving to achieve a balance of the historical context and functionality of a flexible place of worship, church events etcetera. Was rather worried to read your webpage preamble about the state of the place; perhaps it needs redrafting to avoid the impression it is falling down. Last time I visited it looked pretty good. Your video clip is a taster that suggests great things will be achieved.	Positive	Noted with thanks	72
A9	A truly Inspirational Project. Let's do it!	Positive	Noted with thanks	73
A10	Great stuff! £880k budget seems low	Costs	Noted with thanks. The costs were based on a detailed assessment of the proposals	74
A11	Well done to the team who have put this all together. We appreciate the huge amount of work you have all put in and thank you for it.	Positive	Noted with thanks	75
A12	Thank you so much for your amazing hard work. I am so excited at this prospect	Positive	Noted with thanks	76
A13	I think that it's incredibly exciting. Well done for all the work so far and plans for the future	Positive	Noted with thanks	77
A14	This looks to be an excellent investment for future generations. The seating will also allow flexibility for social distancing, something no one would have thought necessary 2 years ago	Positive	Noted with thanks	78
A15	Very exciting and a great future for our church	Positive	Noted with thanks	79
A16	A most professional and well thought out project. Possible problem of ingress ow water from Shelley's walk with 'level' surface. Closure of church for a year appears to be essential. What about use of memorial Hall on high days, remembrance, weddings, funerals - capacity there is limited?	Positive	Noted with thanks. The design of Shelley's Walk will include appropriate drainage. Arrangements	80

			will be made for worship at alternative locations	
A17	having been involved in the plans for changes to the Baptist church 25 years ago where the pews were replaced by chairs, I have seen what a difference it made. Also changes inside the church made it more accessible and to be used for outreach - e.g., Beans Cafe. It is so important to have use of the space for other purposes. Could carpets be considered for the smaller meeting rooms	Positive	Noted with thanks	81
A18	thank you all so much for all you have done and continue to do. I feel that it is important to grow as a church family as God calls us to, and the Church Cottage has outgrown its use. The rooms are very small so only small groups can meet - e.g., women's' bible study has to split, and some have to climb winding stairs - not possible for everyone Access to toilets in cottage a big issue. children in cottage during services a problem. Cottage obsolete and unsafe.	Church Cottage	Noted with thanks. The issues you clearly state are reasons to discontinue the use of the cottage	82
A19	The proposed improvements will make the church much more welcoming and inclusive, and it will be lovely to see it restored to its original layout.	Positive	Noted with thanks	83
A20	Although I do not go to church, it is a key part of the whole community. The physical presence of a beautiful building in the centre of Lechlade is an important feature of the town. Initially I was concerned that the closure of the existing main entrance opening from the Market Place would not be an improvement, but the treatment of the "new" entrance and the improvement of Shelley's Walk have overcome my concerns.	Positive	Noted with thanks	84
A21	Overall, well thought through proposals and excellent presentation. The objectives of integrating toilets, kitchen and multi-functional spaces - and increasing overall flexibility, are I feel essential in maintaining the church as a welcoming centre of the worshipping community in Lechlade.	positive	Noted with thanks	85

	. I welcome the reuse of the North door and it will be good to see the improvements to the paving in Shelley's Walk which currently present a significant hazard.	North porch	Noted with thanks	
	The proposals greatly improve the flexibility of the church, but I feel this objective could be met even more fully by (a) removing the glazed lobby which takes up a considerable area of the church and forming a smaller lobby to toilets and meeting room under the line of the balcony.	lobby	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	b) removing the side screens to the chancel. The removal of the front chancel screen has a major impact on improving the openness of the church, but the retention of the side screens (particularly on the south side) seriously limits flexibility, for e.g., siting of music groups, practicality of performance events and orientation of chairs for worship. c) repositioning the font. In its new location, although it gives prominence to Christenings it disrupts sightlines and seating arrangements for the rest of the time.	screens	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	Need to ensure floor finish is fit for all purposes and will not for example stain easily or require excessive maintenance or cleaning regimes.	Floor	Noted with thanks	
	Air source heat pump is relatively new technology, and it would be good to know there are examples of similar buildings with a similar pattern of use where it is working well.	Heating	Noted with thanks	
	Although it is difficult to predict the future, I feel it is important to consider that any structure which is put in place is capable of a degree of modification (e.g., increasing balcony loadings) to meet potential future adaptations. If possible, I would like to see the stained-glass window on the south wall intersected by the new balcony relocated further along the south wall.	Future proofing	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
A22	I really like the new proposals that have been made and think the changes will not only be better for younger people but also for the safety of the elderly congregation that we have now. I liked the Aston stone flooring (the yellowish one). I also much preferred having arms on the chairs.	Chairs	Noted with thanks	86
A23	This is a really positive proposal. Ideally, I would have liked to see more space for children's work on a Sunday morning but realistically I can't see how that could have been achieved within the current church footprint. Given the constraint that we could not expend the church I think this is the	Chairs	Noted with thanks	87

	best we can do. Hopefully it won't take 100 years for this to be too small and we will need more space! I think it is important the chairs all have some form of book rest as many of our congregation will struggle picking up notices sheets from the floor. I also think the number with arms will need to be well above the 10% proposed.			
A24	Church Cottage use for ladies bible study not safe. Stairs uneven. Fell up step to kitchen. Floors uneven. Windows do not open. Have to go outside all weathers to get to toilet	Church Cottage	Noted with thanks. The issues you clearly state are reasons to discontinue the use of the cottage	88
A25	this is an essential project that needs to happen. It respect the grade I listed building and develops the space for the worship and mission of the church. The building exists for the mission of the church and it cannot remain stuck in the past	Positive	Noted with thanks	89
A26	An excellent presentation	Positive	Noted with thanks	90
A27	No major issues and support proposals: impressed with progress. Constructive comments: want to see stated that organ and choir to be retained. Presume supplementary heating will be provided as well as Air Source Heat Pump.	Positive	Noted with thanks. The underfloor heating will be supplemented with some 'fast' heat within the hybrid solution.	91
A28	Congratulations for all the work in the proposals - will open up the church/make it welcoming/good to have kitchen & toilets. Concerned that organ might go and so might choir - would not want that. Yes to move screens except one in front of organ. Is it safe for choir to robe upstairs and descend stairs? St L a very welcoming place and proposals will enhance worship -have been at ST L for over 50 years	Screens	Noted with thanks. The organ will remain and arrangements for the choir robing are being discussed	92
A29	Support all the changes - very welcome to have flexible, warmer space, better kitchen. Having organised Ladies Breakfast in the church for over 10 years, pews are heavy and difficult to move, tables from cottage difficult and cleaning difficult.	Pews	Noted with thanks	93

A30	In my view, many important activities are greatly impeded by the arrangement/facilities of the current premises. I list below some examples. - The Holiday Bible Club for children - in particular by the heavy pews, lack of an accessible WC, and awkward entrance - The Ladies Breakfast - in particular by the heavy pews, lack of accessible WC, and the chilly atmosphere in the winter months - The Ladies Bible Study - in particular by the lack of space in the cottage together with its curving stairs and differing floor levels - Regular worship services, carol services, remembrance services, concerts, etc by the chilly atmosphere in the winter months and lack of accessible WC. I therefore particularly commend those elements of this plan that seek to remove these obstacles to the church's life, witness, and growth.	pews	Noted with thanks including your comments on the difficulties of the heavy pews in holding activities	94
A31	The scheme is ambitious, and the proposed modernisation and flexibility will allow the church building to offer many opportunities for use in Lechlade. The intention to use high quality materials is welcome and appropriate.	positive	Noted with thanks	95
A32	Toilets an important addition - disabled cannot access toilets in cottage.	Toilets	Noted with thanks. The difficult stairs are a barrier to those less able. The issues you clearly state are reasons to discontinue the use of the cottage	96
	Cottage stairs are dangerous and unsatisfactory - also front door opens onto busy market square.	Cottage	Noted with thanks. The issues you clearly state are reasons to discontinue the use of the cottage.	
A33	Raising floor, improved efficient, green heating/lighting are excellent changes. Chairs will be an asset for occasions like summer club. Unsure about balcony meeting rooms - re: disabled. Church office in vestry will be crowded. Reordering is for the benefit of generations to come - please take note of comments from younger people	Vestry	Noted with thanks	97

A34	God bless you all and many thanks	Positive	Noted with thanks	98
A35	Better facilities for children and elderly. Uneven flooring. Hard uncomfortable pews	Pews	Noted with thanks	99
A36	THE SINGLE PURPOSE BUILDING WILL BE MADE MULTI-PURPOSE = MUCH MORE SUITABLE FOR THE FUTURE	Positive	Noted with thanks	100
A37	Anyone considering this project (whether a parishioner, visitor or other consultee) needs to understand that this is first and foremost a place of worship and that the project seeks to make it fit for purpose for decades to come. It is quite clear that "something must be done" because of the state of the wiring, floor etc simply as a consequence of wear and tear and general deterioration and increasing maintenance burden. The project, therefore, is a 'must do' not a 'nice to do' and so an ideal opportunity is offered to develop other aspects - this must be grasped Don't forget to find a new home for the royal hatchment, so it is not the thing you see when looking eastwards	Positive	Noted with thanks	101
	The scheme makes good use of the space and absorbs facilities in the Church Cottage. The provision of multi-use spaces is important and will help to make even more use of the building.	Meeting rooms	Noted with thanks	
	Use of the ringing chamber makes sense - even though it is unlikely to be used much outside ringing/Sunday School times it is nevertheless a handy facility to have available.	Ringing chamber	Noted with thanks	
	The ability to rearrange seating for a variety of services is crucial; this transfers to other uses such as concerts, Ladies Breakfasts etc and so extends to opportunities even more but without jeopardising the success of, say, the Memorial Hall as the church will not be competing for business. Having individual seats that can be linked and stacked will make life so much easier when setting up events - and it will reduce wear and tear to the new floor - a huge benefit over the current pews.	chairs	Noted with thanks	

	Not really convinced by the plan for a glass inner lobby by the north door. Am aware it is under reconsideration. The maintenance (and cleaning) will be a critical part of planning downstream, so the fabric is maintained properly.	lobby	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	Aware too those telecoms need to be considered so that services can be streamed, and the Parish Office will be more accessible and be able to operate better. In 2021 this is an essential not an optional extra. Pleased that a fire detection and alarm system plus a security alarm will be installed.	Audio visual	Noted with thanks	
	Great news that Shelley's Walk will be tackled regardless of the rest of the project. It is a poor reflection on Lechlade that it has taken until now to remedy the uneven surface!	Shelley's walk	Noted with thanks	
	Screen being moved - hooray!	Screen	Noted with thanks	
A38	I think the parish should be commended for the way this project has been thought through. Once the project is complete the parish will have a church fit for purpose for generations to come. It is nice to see some older features such as the gallery reinstated and the sensitive reuse of the Victorian choir screen. It is nice to peel back the Victoriana and explore some of the original architectural concepts in a modern, usable manner. <i>Joint submission</i>	Positive	Noted with thanks	102
A39	I think the parish should be commended for the way this project has been thought through. Once the project is complete the parish will have a church fit for purpose for generations to come. It is nice to see some older features such as the gallery reinstated and the sensitive reuse of the Victorian choir screen. It is nice to peel back the Victoriana and explore some of the original architectural concepts in a modern, usable manner. <i>Joint submission</i>	Positive	Noted with thanks	103

Appendix A2 – Comments log: Supportive - Constructive

Number	Comment	Topic	Project Inspire response	ref
B1	The only concern I have is the choice of chairs as all seem quite modern and with one exception rather dreary. I feel the evocative heritage of the church is somewhat compromised by these chairs.	Chairs	Noted with thanks. We provided a range of chairs for visitors to see, test and comment	32
B2	Congratulations. It is obvious how much hard work has been done. Beautiful displays and photos. Please have very discreet video & screen use. Cupboard needed for brooms etc downstairs	Audio visual	Noted with thanks	33
	Rood screen: super to move it but there it cuts across the window.	Screen	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	LED: I believe it can be found with a warm effect - better than cyblue. Would be super to use proper font again.	Lighting	Noted with thanks	
	Please keep communion rail and step there so we can kneel together.	Communion rail	Noted with thanks. The communion rail to the main altar will remain.	
	Small sink from kitchen area might be used as the second (handwashing) basin needed in a new kitchen.	Kitchen	Noted with thanks	
	Old door from north I am told will be left open. I think this intrusive and spoil the welcome area. Maybe it could be opened into the porch out of the way and best side on view	North porch	Noted with thanks. We are limited as to what we can do with the ancient door	
B3	Open and welcoming now most floor is level now why not a ramp? Currently has one large, shared space plus cottage agree with energy efficiency but to detriment of the historic features of the church Design changes inappropriate and damaging	Floor	Noted with thanks. We concluded that a level floor throughout would provide unhindered access for the less able without introducing different levels in the floor	34
B4	Ccosts - contingency- most builds exceed planned budget - will enough money be raised? Oncosts for revenue - heat pump, costs of cleaning higher, high level of glass - who will do it	Cost	Noted with thanks. The costs were based on a detailed assessment of the proposals. Sources of funds was explained at the presentation	35

	Access for disabled to upper floor not provided.	Lift	Noted with thanks. The facilities provided on the balcony are essentially seating which is also provided on the ground floor.	
	? Poor colour contrast - floors, chairs all similar colours so potential accidents if cannot clearly define outlines.	Floor	Noted with thanks. We have received several comments on the floor colour which we are reviewing.	
	opportunity to sell pews and tiles at optimum prices to be explored. Likely objections from historical/culture groups	Pews	Noted with thanks. The floor tiles will remain in place. No decision has been made on the disposal route for the pews	
B5	this presentation is aimed at St L congregation only and not preserving the building. People come to see/use it as it is. Agree heating and lighting need updating but leave the rest. There is no mention of cost - where is the money to come from. Highworth was reordered much to the horror and regret of locals and visitors Don't ruin St L.I am not a member of St L as I go elsewhere, so I was not allowed to attend presentation	Cost	Noted with thanks. The presentation was open to all through booking on the website or by phone. The presentation explained the basis of the costs and the sources of potential funds.	36
B6	the way the ringing chamber is modified and utilised must be done with safety in mind and, ideally, the agreement of the majority of the current ringers.	Bell ringing	Noted with thanks. We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. See report section 4.7.5 for response.	37
B7	no mention of the costs involved and how revenue achieved - equally important to the proposals	Cost	Noted with thanks. The presentation explained the basis of the costs and the sources of potential funds.	38
B8	all the glass - safety aspect	Glass	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	39
B9	I think two screens would be beneficial for members of the congregation are behind the pillars	Audio visual	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	40

B10	Is there provision for shelving, storage, books etc? From the new glazed inner lobby are the 2 sets of doors into church necessary - this prevents the area from being used for storage or push chair parking	Storage	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	41
	I think an oven in kitchen would be very useful. All ideas very exciting, providing welcoming accessibility for future and more usage	Kitchen	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
B11	North Door - existing gates are to be discarded in the plan, but I gather they are of historical interest. Is there any way they could feature in the plan?	North door	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	42
	If the Ringing Room is to be used as a flexible space, it is a H&S worry with ropes and furniture moving before & after ringing, not being able to leave the bells up on occasions as needed, having been a ringer I think it's a dangerous venture and would prefer it was kept separate, but I understand there's a meeting planned with the ringers soon to discuss this.	Bell ringing	Noted with thanks. We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. See report section 4.7.5 for response	
B12	Assume these proposals will include inputs from the wider Lechlade community?	General	Noted with thanks. The objective of the presentation in September and October was to consult with the church and wider community	43
B13	1. a lot of glass to keep clean - possible specialist cleaning equipment?	Cleaning	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the project	44
	2. Presume the toilets will be closed to visitors and a code for church members	Toilets	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the project	
	3. Enough room in the vestry/office for the all the robes used at the services including choir robes and books?	Vestry	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
B14	The congregation appear to like to socialise outside in the area in front the current entrance on fine dry days as demonstrated in the video; in my opinion this will not be so natural to do if the north door only is used to exit mass.	North porch	Noted with thanks	45
B15	Its difficult to judge how dominating the gallery will be over the main body of the church, I see the need for a roof on the kitchen and toilets, but the gallery size may be a little overwhelming. The stained-glass window to the	Gallery and window	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comment on the	46

	right (from the inside) of the south door will be quite obscured by the gallery / kitchen, could this be moved and replaced by one of the plain windows.		window in developing the detailed design	
	The pews need to be disposed of respectfully with the backing of residents and not lost or allowed to be sold to profiteering reclamation companies.	Pews	Noted with thanks. No decision has been made on the disposal route for the pews.	
B16	My one, simple concern is that, while accessibility and one level throughout the church is a great facility, thought will need to be given (may already have been given) to creating a slightly raised area so that child participation can be enhanced and not lost as children are encouraged to be part of services and need to be seen (often a lost perspective at present). It could be that worship 'in the round' can deal with this. A small but important point I believe in inclusive worship.	Raised area for children	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	47
B17	Would it be possible to remove the side screen from the south side of the choir stalls and have the same level floor throughout?	Screen	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	48
B18	Will there be space for choir robes as the 'choir vestry' in the cottage will no longer be available	Choir	Noted with thanks. Arrangements for the choir robing are being discussed	49
	2. When providing good audio/visual facilities for the congregation, will these also be visible by anyone sitting in the chancel (e.g., choir)	Audio visual	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	3. If the glazed inner lobby by the North Porch has a glass roof, how will that be kept clean? Should it perhaps be opaque, to let light in but not show all the inevitable accumulating debris.	Lobby	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
B19	Bell chamber safety	Bell ringing	Noted with thanks. We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. See report section 4.7.5 for response.	50
B20	Concerned that there won't be enough rooms for individual groups on a Sunday morning and that access to toilets & kitchen are through the large meeting room	Sunday school	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	51

B21	The positive impact of the reOrdering creating a light open building will be diminished by any retention or relocating of the dark Victorian screens. My thoughts are for them to be removed completely	Screen	Noted with thanks. There are a range of views on the relocation of the screen	52
B22	Concern about the level of natural light in the vestry/office	Vestry	Noted with thanks. Roof lights are proposed to improve natural lighting.	53
B23	I am very keen on the Victorian screens all being removed. I personally would not use them in the church at all - that includes the one behind the choir near the lady chapel.	Screen	Noted with thanks. There are a range of views on the relocation of the screen	54
	Very pleased to be at Memorial Hall for a year so that we are nearer Gassons Rd/St Birinus and may pick up new members for church	Interim services	Noted with thanks	
B24	efficiency of heat pumps - from experience.	Heating	Noted with thanks. We are guided by the advice from our specialist heating consultants	55
	Loss of sense of wonder on entrance to church from north rather than west	North porch	Noted with thanks	
B25	Thanks and congratulations to all involved on the meticulous and careful research involved in producing this document and so much more. All very exciting Lighting: flexibility to include provision for excellent level of lighting for mid-church performance in the round.	Lighting	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	56
	Audio: consider extra speakers mid-church and/or at the back.	Audio visual	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
B26	LETTER		See additional letters	57
B27	Very ambitious project - am worried that the cost could spiral and take much longer than envisaged - hope I'm wrong.	Cost	Noted with thanks. The costs were based on a detailed assessment of the proposals.	58
	Would be lovely if a way could be found to use the shorter pews in the churchyard. Visitors love to sit and eat sandwiches there, drink coffee etc. would need extra waste bins alas	Pews	Noted with thanks.	

B28	Excellent, although it would be good to see what the overall carbon balance of the project is taking into account the carbon generated during the Project's implementation.	Carbon	Noted with thanks. We shall look at this issue in developing the detailed design	59
B29	Will the church really be warmer overall with underfloor heating? Serious reservations about adequacy of vestry as office - can see it spilling over into meeting spaces in next 100 years	Heating	Noted with thanks. We are guided by the advice from our specialist heating consultants	60
B30	I am concerned about the safety aspect of children being near the bell ropes and equipment.	Ringing chamber	Noted with thanks. We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. See report section 4.7.5 for response.	61
	Will the Blaise chapel reredos be retained? This is one of the few references to the importance of the wool industry to the church and town. I realise that it is a modern feature but there should be some clear reference to wool in the church apart from the guidebook and 'paddles' which will only be read by a minority of visitors. Generally, the historic features in the church need simple explanatory panels placed beside them	Side chapel	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	I am sad to know that the choir stalls will be removed, and the screen moved.	Screen	Noted with thanks. There are a range of views on the relocation of the screen	
B31	I'm concerned that the plans do not include provision to accommodate the whole school - children, staff and families	Provision for school		62
	The loss of spaces in the church for smaller services (e.g., St Blaize chapel) is a pity. Nevertheless, I understand the need for changes, and the heating and access will be an improvement.	Side chapel	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	Multiple uses of the bell tower seem unrealistic - will this be a safe place for children?	Ringing chamber	Noted with thanks. We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. See report section 4.7.5 for response.	
	I'm not sure that the meeting spaces and toilets are a priority when we have other venues in Lechlade that provide these facilities.	Meeting spaces	Noted with thanks. The meeting spaces are primarily for use by the church before, during and after services and at other times	

B32	If the pews have to go: 1. Please may the choice of replacement furniture take into account those who wish to follow Lancelot Andrewes' exhortation to kneel while we pray? 2. Please could serious thought be given to a good home for the pews, so that they are not merely discarded?	Pews	Noted with thanks. Chair designs have been available to view, test and express a preference. No decision has been made on kneelers. No decision has been made on the disposal route for the pews	63
B33	I agree with the overall aims of Project Inspire. However, details of the audio-visual facilities to be provided, are brief. In 2018 there was a proposal to install audio visual equipment which was ultimately withdrawn. I wrote to object at the time, and I hope that some of the issues raised then have now been addressed, in that: - • the screen will be mounted *behind* the Chancel arch and can be lowered only when required, presumably not for all services; • any visual monitors will be mobile and not permanently mounted thus looking out of place and causing a clash of the old with the new	Audio visual	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	64
	On another matter, would it be possible to refurbish the North Porch and make it weatherproof so that an inner glass lobby would not be necessary?	North porch	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
B34	Thank you very much for your wonderful presentation on Friday. It was extremely clear and well presented. Your research and knowledge have informed a deeply considered proposal and I am very excited to be able to picture it now. It was good for me to hear the perspectives of others too, because it helps to understand the sensitivities involved. I thought that group seem to be very measured and thoughtful in their responses. My children all enjoyed the presentation today too, as did a number of others who were there and shared with me how impressed they were. Well done and thank you to you and the many others for the hard work.	Access	Noted with thanks	Additional letter
	For many years we have run annual holiday clubs, open to any children in the community for free. It is a huge undertaking needing to move all the pews in order to free up enough space for activities for 70+ children plus helpers. This in itself is a limitation. I would much prefer to be able to organise day events at appropriate seasons (e.g., an Easter club - which we did as a trail in the churchyard last year) rather than be limited to one week a year when we can just about manage to reorganise the building. One year we were delighted to welcome a girl who is in a wheelchair. We	Access	Noted with thanks. Your comments are most helpful in explaining the current difficulties we have with access, toilet provision and moving pews	

	<p>worked very hard to ensure she could be as involved as possible, but I was conscious that we fell short in many ways. It was completely impossible to manoeuvre her wheelchair into the Cottage (even if we could have successfully got it across the cobbles!) and she could not have got into a cubicle, together with a carer to use the toilet. I therefore had to negotiate with Lynwoods Cafe in the Market Square for her to be allowed to use their bathroom, which is wheelchair accessible. They were extremely generous, but it felt awkward, not least because she had to be wheeled off and through the queue in the cafe and wait in line to use their one bathroom. It must have made a girl who already felt awkward feel even more like an outsider. It was also very difficult to get her into the church building - the West door as it normally stands was not wide enough (and needed opening to double width, and then it was difficult getting the chair through the heavy interior oak doors. She was being pushed by her grandmother in her 80s, and I was very concerned that she was really struggling to get her granddaughter in and out.</p>			
	<p>I personally experienced similar issues in terms of accessibility throughout N's [name omitted] early years - with the constant difficulty of trying to get a buggy through the doors for services, Little Lights, other events. I spent a lot of time opening the double doors every time I arrived and struggling with the inner doors, whilst having older children in tow getting caught up in swinging doors! I didn't mind, but I could imagine that a visitor or a non-regular would find this physical barrier affecting their sense of welcome to the space. I see similar issues with my father-in-law when he needs to use a rollator to assist with his mobility.</p>	<p>Access</p>	<p>Noted with thanks</p>	
	<p>The steps up to the chancel also present problems at services and other activities for both the very young and the elderly. Little Lights nearly always has a toddler tumbling down the steps - so far thankfully without serious repercussions - which makes the service more stressful than it need be for parents, carers and helpers. Again, the difficulty getting access with buggies and the lack of changing facilities is always something I need to explain and apologise for at Little Lights. The levelling of the floor (as well as the addition of bathrooms and the proposed changes to the doors/entrances) would solve so many of these difficulties.</p>	<p>Access</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. Yes the steps present a barrier to access up to and down from the communion rail and is one of the reasons for a level access</p>	

	<p>Sunday Groups: Again, we face similar issues of accessibility for Sunday Groups for children taking place in the Cottage. At present there is only one usable room on the ground floor with level access, which means there are always young children using the steep staircase to get to rooms and then back down to the bathrooms. This has presented difficulties on occasions, not least of which the previous vicar's son was disabled and, in a wheelchair, and we had a child with another disability in groups, who could not use the top floor and who also needed assistance in the bathroom, which was very difficult in the current standard toilets. It is sometimes very difficult to encourage young or new children to go into groups, because they have to leave the building and go across the side of the marketplace into the Cottage. This is unsettling for both children and parents and means that some families never really start doing that. Having the meeting rooms in church,³ with some visibility of spaces and leaders would be very helpful to break down some of these perceived barriers, as well as increase safety.</p>	<p>Sunday school</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. The issues you clearly state are reasons to discontinue the use of the Church Cottage.</p>	
	<p>Midweek groups: At present we run an after-school club for 30 children at St Lawrence School. We would like to be able to have this group into church when appropriate (particularly because on the school site there is only the school hall large enough to accommodate this size of activity, and we sometimes have a timetabling clash with other after school clubs) and to be able to make use of a flexible space.</p>	<p>Meeting rooms</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. This supports the need for open space within the church</p>	
	<p>Youth groups: At present the South Cotswold Team youth worker runs a midweek youth group for secondary age young people which takes place in Fairford Church community centre as the only suitable space, even though the majority of people attending actually travel over from Lechlade. This is not a problem, and it is good to share events across the team. However, it highlights the fact that we do not have a flexible space appropriate for hosting youth meetings of this sort at St Lawrence. Of course, there is the Memorial Hall, but the cost implications of this are unfortunate for a ministry which does not charge families for the weekly meeting and which struggles financially.</p>	<p>Flexible space</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. This supports the need for open space within the church</p>	

	<p>Other groups: A group of predominantly elderly women have met every Monday afternoon for many years in the Church Cottage but are now unable to meet on St Lawrence property. About 25 have signed up to take part this term (Autumn 2021), which is too many people even to split between the ground and first floor of the Cottage (where we have always met until we went online with covid) - particularly given that a number of them have mobility problems and the staircase is too dangerous/difficult for them. The alternative of meeting in the church building is not feasible because of the impracticality of trying to arrange 25 people in pews who could hear each other in a discussion. Furthermore, the temperature of the building during autumn and winter makes this an unsuitable space. We have very kindly been offered the use of the Baptist Church for this term, but they do have other events which take place, so we cannot be confident of always being able to be there. The alternatives of renting a room at the Memorial Hall obviously raise issues of cost for a group which does not make any charge to those who attend. We know that the continued friendship and support offered amongst this group (via Zoom and phone) was a real encouragement to all during the long lockdowns, and being able to continue to host this group and for it to be open to newcomers who may wish to join is just one small reason amongst many as to why the church building would benefit from thoughtful re-ordering</p>	Church Cottage	Noted with thanks. This confirms the limitation of using the cottage and supports the need for open space within the church	
B35	<p>The retention of the heavy wooden doors in the west porch will continue to make this space difficult to access. There will also be no natural light in this area, making it a less appealing place for meetings and church groups during the day.</p>	West porch	Noted with thanks. The heavy wooden doors will be replaced. Our design proposals will make this area more attractive	Additional letter
	<p>The rationale for moving the main entrance from the west porch to the north porch is unclear. For events such as weddings, surely a bride would prefer to walk down the whole of the aisle from the west porch? The area outside the west porch gives ample space for the congregation to disperse after a service, without interfering with pedestrians walking down the church path; exiting out of the north porch will create congestion on the narrow church footpath; people walking from the Market Square towards the Primary School will have their path blocked off as people exit the church.</p>	West porch	Noted with thanks. The west door will still be available for weddings and special services such as Remembrance. Christmas and Easter	

	There seems some discrepancy with the sketches for the choir pews: in one drawing they are shown as benches whilst in another they are shown as chairs. Benches will be much more suitable; they allow for more people to be seated in the area in which chairs take up more room.	Choir pews	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design. We are investigating alternative choir pews	
	I would encourage that, whatever chair design is chosen to replace the pews, it includes a shelf where books can be kept during a service.	Chairs	Noted with thanks. Chair designs have been available to view, test and express a preference	
	I am against the redesignation of the Blaise chapel from a quiet space of prayer and smaller communion chapel to a storage area. Having an additional smaller chapel is a key feature of many places of worship and its importance should not be overlooked.	Blaise chapel	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	During the reordering presentation that I attended, a comment was made by the presenter that there won't be enough storage in the reordered church to fit everything from the Church Cottage and that most of this will need to go into skips. Surely future proofing the church should include sufficient storage? If this is the chance to redesign the church for centuries to come, then it would seem prudent to ensure that there is ample storage for the future.	Storage	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design. We intend to provide sufficient storage for items used in services and activities. The comment referred to items not required for future use.	
B36	Overall well thought through proposals and excellent presentation. The objectives of integrating toilets, kitchen and multi-functional spaces - and increasing overall flexibility, are I feel essential in maintaining the church as a welcoming centre of the worshipping community in Lechlade. I welcome the reuse of the North door and it will be good to see the improvements to the paving in Shelley's Walk which currently present a significant hazard.	North door	Noted with thanks	Additional letter
	The proposals greatly improve the flexibility of the church, but I feel this objective could be met even more fully by (a) removing the glazed lobby which takes up a considerable area of the church and forming a smaller lobby to toilets and meeting room under the line of the balcony.	Lobby	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	

	b) removing the side screens to the chancel. The removal of the front chancel screen has a major impact on improving the openness of the church, but the retention of the side screens (particularly on the south side) seriously limits flexibility, for e.g., siting of music groups, practicality of performance events and orientation of chairs for worship.	Side screens	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	c) repositioning the font. In its new location, although it gives prominence to Christenings it disrupts sightlines and seating arrangements for the rest of the time. Need to ensure floor finish is fit for all purposes and will not for example stain easily or require excessive maintenance or cleaning regimes.	Font	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	Air source heat pump is relatively new technology, and it would be good to know there are examples of similar buildings with a similar pattern of use where it is working well.	Heating	Noted with thanks. We are guided by the advice from our specialist heating consultants	
	Although it is difficult to predict the future, I feel it is important to consider that any structure which is put in place is capable of a degree of modification (e.g., increasing balcony loadings) to meet potential future adaptations. If possible, I would like to see the stained-glass window on the south wall intersected by the new balcony relocated further along the south wall.	Gallery	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	I am uncertain how much the view of the stained-glass windows will be restricted by the mezzanine floor.	Balcony and window	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
B27	First of all, I would like to congratulate everyone for all the work they have put into this project. It is obvious an enormous amount of time and effort has been devoted to the proposals and I appreciated being able to come to a presentation to view all the plans. All of the proposed improvements will open up the Church and make it a very welcoming place.	Positive	Noted with thanks	Additional letter
	Having kitchen facilities will obviously enhance the ability to provide refreshments at many of the events which take place in Church and toilet provision will further improve the space.	Kitchen	Noted with thanks	

	I was a little concerned at comments made that it would be good to get rid of the organ, and also mutterings that we don't need the choir anyway. St Lawrence has a long tradition of providing choir led services and, whilst I can appreciate that these days a more informal service is becoming the norm, I would be very sad if there was no provision for more formal worship. The recent return of Evensong led by the choir is very welcome and I hope that will continue. Whilst I mostly attend the 8:00 am service when I do go to Evensong, I find the format and music very uplifting.	Organ	Noted with thanks. The organ will remain in place	
	Regarding the removal of the screens, I can see the advantage of moving the choir screen to the balcony and may be also the south screen thus opening up the space from the existing Lady Chapel. However, I would prefer to see the screen by the organ left in place. (Hopefully the organ is not going to be disposed of?) There is a difference in floor level there and so something would need to be done about this to stop choir members falling onto the organist! Leaving the north screen in place would be very beneficial here.	Screen	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	The plan to have the choir robe up on the balcony concerns me a little as processing down the stairs in robes will not be easy for some of the more elderly members. I hope this will be taken into account in your future discussions.	Choir	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	St Lawrence has become a very welcoming place and the current proposals will certainly enhance the worship provision in Lechlade. When we arrived here over 50 years ago and went to our first service of Matins with our three small children we were told by another member of the congregation 'you are sitting in our pew'! Thankfully things have moved on since then.	Positive	Noted with thanks	
B38	Thank you for giving me the opportunity to hear about and see the proposals for Project Inspire. It is clear that much time and effort has been invested in the Project and I am impressed with the progress which has been made in a relatively short time, especially during the prevailing COVID pandemic. Overall, I have no major issues with the proposals and will give the Project my support, but I do have a few comments and concerns. A major thrust of the proposal is to make the church more welcoming. Evidence that this would attract more worshippers, both in Lechlade and in	Positive	Noted with thanks	Additional letter

	the wider community, would add greatly to generating support for the proposals, especially when it comes to fund raising.			
	I understand and have some sympathy with the aims of the Project but hope that the opening up , in particular, is not taken too far. I recently attended a wonderful service in York Minster where they have incorporated many of the proposals in the Project yet have retained many of the traditional elements which I value.	Opening up	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	The plans show the location of the organ, implying that it will remain, and the proposed arrangements in the chancel indicate that the choir will also remain. However, the choir seems to be used less and less, and more than one person at the presentation expressed some doubt about the retention of the organ. If the organ and choir are going to be retained, it would be good to see this written explicitly into the proposal. I would find it difficult to continue supporting the Project if the organ and choir were to go.	Organ	Noted with thanks. The organ will remain in place	
	It was suggested to me on another occasion that the choir would use the bell ringing chamber to store and change into their robes, before processing down the stairs. This might be a problem for anyone with mobility limitations and, even for able bodied individuals, coming downstairs in a group wearing floor length cassocks may present some risk.	Choir robing	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	The installation of an air source heat pump (ASHP) is appropriate, but I am not sure it will be sufficient when the existing gas boilers are retired over time . ASHPs produce low temperature heat and, because the flow of heat is driven by temperature difference, its response to a change in ambient conditions is slow. Running the system continuously may mitigate this to some extent. The ASHP thermodynamic cycle is the same as in a refrigerator but turned inside out. Just as a refrigerator is less effective when the ambient temperature is high an ASHP will be less effective when the ambient temperature is low, just when heating is most needed. I believe some supplementary heating will be needed in such conditions. I hope my comments will not be seen as negative and that you will find them helpful.	heating	Noted with thanks. We are guided by the advice from our specialist heating consultants	
B39	As a parent of children who attend the Church Cottage and as a group leader, please see my concerns and comments below Health and safety	Church Cottage	Noted with thanks. This confirms the limitation of using the cottage and	Additional letter

	<p>risks (from a safety consultant) The stairs to the upper floor are not safe for young children or in fact anyone – not sure they even meet building regs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No fire route from the upper floor (see comment above about stairs) ○ Poor access straight into a road at the front of the cottage ○ Uneven floors thought-out the building ○ Poor fire planning ○ Possible Asbestos (not sure there as been a survey as required by Law) ○ Not seen a fire assessment or general risk assessment <p>General comments: The cottage isn't fit for purpose in my option its very outdated poor heating – its not the most inviting place to try and teach the young children on a Sunday often cold and damp with poor access. Their no IT equipment available.</p>		<p>supports the need for open space within the church The PCC has a current Fire Risk Assessment for the Church Cottage</p>	
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Appendix A3 – Comments log: Not supportive – Constructive

Number	Comment	Topic	Project Inspire response	ref
C1	No lift to balcony? Do we need more facilities when have pavilion and memorial hall	Lift Meeting rooms	Noted with thanks. The meeting spaces are primarily for use by the church before, during and after services and at other times	18
C2	Over-riding concern is change from plan to extend on N wall. Font should be near entrance	Font	Noted with thanks	19
	Blaise chapel should be retained for private prayer.	Side chapel	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
	North porch - door should be permanently open with noticeboards inside - current boards poor.	North porch	Noted with thanks	
	Concerned about arrangements for when work is carried out and the effect on residents nearby	Construction	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account resident's concerns during construction. Nearly all the work will be carried out inside the church	
C3	Organ - (1) The plans show a cupboard against the west side of the organ. The cupboard is intended to store folding tables, so it will be fairly tall and very heavy. In its proposed position, the cupboard prevents access to the wooden panels on the west side of the organ which need to be removed during maintenance of the swell draw stops and swell box mechanism. These areas cannot be accessed any other way. It is possible to access the upper part of the organ containing the pipes from the east side, though not as convenient as access from the west side by removing some of the large pipes.	Organ	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design.	20

(2) It is important that the cupboard is not so tall that it blocks airflow around the pipes on the west side of the organ. These are functioning pipes, not simply decorative as in some instruments.	Organ	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
(3) Please remember to ensure the organ is fully protected during the building work to avoid the expense of a major refurbishment of the organ to remove dust from all the pipes. This was not done the last time a cherry-picker was used to dust stonework, so is of concern.	Organ	Noted with thanks. We plan to ask the organ specialist to advise on appropriate protection	
Choir stalls - Given that one of the stated objectives of the project is "Heritage conserved by careful design" the church has a responsibility to posterity to preserve at least the decorative elements of the existing choir stalls which are designed as an ensemble with the rood screen and are good examples of late 19th century workmanship. The back row of seating doesn't take up much space and would provide useful seating if left in situ. The shorter stalls could usefully be moved to each side of the high altar, replacing existing, less decorative, seating. The carved sides of the longer stalls could be incorporated in replacement choir stalls, which would not only preserve the historic fabric for future generations but ensure that the new choir stalls blended with the remaining sections of the rood screen on the north and south side of the chancel. The carved frontal panels could be used as decoration elsewhere within the church.	Choir stalls	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
The summary asks whether the changes equip the church for many decades to come. This claim was made during the presentation I attended but does not stand up to scrutiny. No attempt has been made to model what the demographic of the congregation and their needs would be like in even ten year's time, let alone one hundred. The changes simply modify the church to suit the current requirements of the dominant evangelical faction within St. Lawrence's.	Demographics	Noted with thanks. The design objective is to make flexible improvements which can accommodate a range of worship in the future	
(1) While the meeting rooms proposed can accommodate the number of children currently attending Sunday School, the allocated space will be woefully inadequate if God blesses the mission endeavours, and the number of young families increases.	Sunday school	Noted with thanks. Yes, we agree that the space for Sunday School is limited, and long-term plans need to take this into account	
(2) It is unlikely that the congregation will want to look at the words of hymns etc. on a screen in even ten year's time. It is more likely that they would prefer to see content on a personal mobile device, possibly smart	Audio visual	Noted with thanks. The AV installation will allow modifications with minimal impact on the fabric	

	glasses. Any AV equipment therefore needs to be installed in such a way that it can be easily removed without damage to the fabric.			
	(3) Those proposed changes such as the removal of the rood screen and choir stalls and change in the position of the font which are linked to a particular theological viewpoint need to be easily reversible. The current evangelical ethos at St Lawrence's is at the extreme end of the broad spectrum of worship styles within the Church of England as a whole. A new vicar may very well have other preferences.	Screen Font	Noted with thanks. The design objective is to make flexible improvements which can accommodate a range of worship in the future	
	The questionnaire format has been deliberately designed to encourage participants to support the proposals. For example, the question on AV equipment encourages leads respondents to agree that the equipment will "improve services and be a benefit for all". While the equipment will improve the experience of congregations at informal services, it will be neutral or negative for worshippers attending Evensong. Moreover, there are no options for stating that the respondent disagrees with specific changes.	Questionnaire Audio visual	Noted with thanks. Refer to the Report Section 2 Background and the response in Section 4.7.2	
C4, C5	There is no mention of a lift to the new upper floor. Surely this should be an integral part of the design and budget. I'm not convinced that the reordering will make a lot of difference to church attendance.	Lift	Noted with thanks. The facilities provided on the gallery duplicate those on the ground floor	21, 24
C6	How long will the alterations take? What is the alternative plan while the church is closed?	Plans during closure	Noted with thanks. The construction period will be up to 12 months. A decision on where services will be held has yet to be made	22
	Apart from improved lighting and heating the layout of the pews gives such a strong feeling of tradition and order. I'm not keen on the chair option.	Pews	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
	New flooring and heating sounds great why not improve Church Cottage to give improved toilet/kitchen/office space there?	Church Cottage	Noted with thanks. See report section 4.7.4 for response	

	I think it is desecration of a beautiful church and a total waste of money which Lechlade does not have.	Cost	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
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C7	I am concerned about the removal of the pews, the choir stalls and the rood screen because the church is an older building and so to much change will spoil its heritage.	Pews	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	26
	There needs to be a solution to where the projector screen is because at the moment the choir is hidden.	Audio visual	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
C8	Shared use of ringing	Ringing chamber	Noted with thanks. We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. See report section 4.7.5 for response	28
C9	I like being able to sit close to my wife on a pew. I will miss that.	Pews	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	29
C10	I like the wooden screens where they are. Make an additional screen so the back can match the front. I prefer the font at the back and put the top back on it.	Screen	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but	30

			sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
	I like the pews. Can the plastic sign outside the church be improved? Cupboards should be dark wood to match the screens	Pews	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
C11	As a Lechlade bellringer for over 40 years, I am very seriously concerned about the lack of safety in the ringing chamber which has neither been assessed properly or thought through. There are NO examples of a shared space with bellringers in a similar tower (first floor ring, small space, inadequate ventilation, lack of ability to change the structure of the ringing room) anywhere else in the country despite what the church and architect would have us all believe. Following a meeting held between the ringers and the church representatives where this issue was raised alongside the Bell Advisor for the DAC and representatives of the Gloucester and Bristol Ringing Association, our concerns were not listened to and to date, some months later, we still do not have a copy of the minutes of this meeting despite repeated attempts to get these. Following this meeting, I was informed by a sides person, that ringers were not part of the congregation, and it did not matter if we were pushed out. I cannot stress this enough - the ringers of St Lawrence Lechlade and the Gloucester and Bristol Association are in dispute over this issue and oppose it being pushed forward to faculty application.	Ringing chamber	Noted with thanks. We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. See report section 4.7.5 for response	31
C12	agree work is needed to improve wiring, heating, flooring but apart from disagreeing about many aspects of the changes cannot justify the expense. Church is for Christian worship.	Cost	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	9

	Town already has other facilities with rooms of various sizes and kitchens	Meeting rooms	Noted with thanks. The meeting spaces are primarily for use by the church before, during and after services and at other times	
	West door is obvious entrance from Market Place - North door will feel cut off from community.	North door	We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
	Shame if Blaise chapel not used for 8am - could be maintained as a chapel with pews and be a secluded part of church for prayer	Side chapel	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
C13, 14	The presentation of the proposed design was excellent and clear. It is obvious that a lot of thought and planning has gone into the proposals. However, the Feedback form leaves much to be desired. It is not a survey but merely a tick box exercise to endorse all the proposed changes with only one box at the end allowing any expression of concerns. Before we embark on any changes or alterations, we need to consider what is the primary purpose and function of the building. Historically the prime purpose of this Cotswold Wool Church was Worship and should remain so. While we support a number of the proposed changes there are some to which we are completely opposed and others which we do not feel are necessary.	Questionnaire	Noted with thanks. Refer to the Report Section 2 Background and the response in Section 4.7.2	10.11
	Section A We agree with: (i) changes to the floor level and finish but feel that the existing tiles should be sold not buried, unless this is not financially viable. ii) replacement of pews with chairs OR lighter modern pews as in Sidmouth iii) relocation of the choir screen.	Floor	Noted with thanks. The tiles will remain and be covered. It would cost more to remove the tiles than any proceeds from the sale	
	Section B We agree with the provision of level access and toilets. We have concerns about opening the North Porch since we are not convinced that the West Porch will provide a substantial meeting room even with the addition of space under the proposed balcony. The North Porch could be used to house the toilets, keeping them completely separate from the main body of the Church and involving less restructuring. A welcoming, light entrance, improved access and facilities and provision of toilets can all be	North porch West porch	Noted with thanks. The west porch will provide a small but adequate room after refurbishment	

<p>achieved without any alteration to the West door and without the need for the proposed balcony.</p>			
<p>Section C Using the vestry for the Parish Office seems a sensible proposition. We question the need for “several” meeting rooms within the church. It is not clear why this would be a “good improvement”. When there is no service in the Church, meetings can be held in the body of the Church. The Sunday School could potentially meet in the school, which may encourage new members since it is viewed by non-churchgoers as a less threatening environment. We question the need to locate the kitchen in the south-west corner when the infrastructure is already present in the north-west corner. While the upgrade of the current kitchen facility and provision of a dishwasher would be useful, catering facilities including an oven should not be the prime function of the church. Who is going to make all the proposed light meals? In the past food has been a “bring and share” event promoting fellowship and friendship.</p>	<p>Meeting rooms</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. The meeting spaces are primarily for use by the church before, during and after services and at other times</p>	
<p>Section D We fully support these proposals.</p>	<p>Heating</p>	<p>Noted with thanks</p>	
<p>Section E The heritage is not conserved by the proposed gallery. This will extend out to the first set of pillars, much further than the former gallery. It is not just a gallery but a complete range of rooms which will greatly alter the proportions and appearance of the nave and impact on the aesthetic of the Cotswold Wool Church. The proposal for a Choir robing area in the gallery does not take account of Choir members with disabilities who would be unable to negotiate the stairs.</p>	<p>Gallery</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design</p>	
<p>The proposal to move the font does not preserve the heritage. Traditionally the font is situated near the entrance to welcome the children and adults being baptised into the church. We cannot see a problem in the congregation’s turning round for the baptism. Where is it proposed that the lectern is to be sited?</p>	<p>Font</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody’s ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.</p>	
<p>What is the justification for the provision of additional seating areas? The proposed kitchen and meeting rooms are in places not normally used for seating under the present arrangements.</p>	<p>Seating</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody’s ideal project and some</p>	

			compromises will inevitably be required.	
	Section F Audio-visual improvements are required, but care must be taken to ensure that, for example, a projection screen is not detrimental to the aesthetic. We are completely against the use of a screen for projecting the words of hymns during traditional services.	Audio visual	Noted with thanks. The use of AV will be dependent on the form of service and at the discretion of the minister	
	During the presentation we raised concerns about the allocation of the contingency. In fact this was not a ring-fenced amount but was taken from each of the other components. The cost of the project seems a large amount to raise from a small parish. Many of the members already commit a significant amount to maintain the status quo. While we support a number of the proposals, we feel that huge improvements could be made without elaborate schemes and subsequent high costs.	Costs	Noted with thanks. Details of the estimated cost was provided at the presentation	
C15	Agree toilet facilities good and electrics and heating need updating but prefer rest of church stays as it is. Plans seem to change every area of church bar the organ - can never be reversed - shame to lose the fixtures and fittings that have served parishioners so well for so long and which feel right for the building	Heritage	Noted with thanks. Details of the estimated cost was provided at the presentation	13
	Better to spend money on cottage.	Church Cottage	Noted with thanks. See report section 4.7.4 for response	
C16	PCC has had my views at some length - believe that West End development on this great scale is detrimental to the Grade I listed building. With sufficient creativity and advocacy believe Church Cottage could be made a greater asset, linked by an imaginative sheltered but open design walkway. Budget - needs 15/20% contingency; allowance for significant inflation and must keep in the pot at least £50k for continuing fabric care.	Church Cottage Cost	Noted with thanks. See report section 4.7.4 for response	15
	There is a great deal I admire and fully support in the thoughtful and committed work which has been done: equally, I strongly believe that, even for the best of motives, you are mistaken in seeking to turn the West end of the church into a suite of meeting rooms -consuming something like a massive fifth or more of the volume of the building. This will fatally compromise the qualities of integrity and openness which have earned our church the rarest accolade of Grade One listing. Most painfully, this gross intrusion will destroy the marvellous asset of that West entrance which so creates, whether on a first or hundredth visit, a real spiritual impact.	Gallery	Noted with thanks. The west end includes toilets and kitchen as well as small Sunday School spaces	

<p>The DAC has been entrusted by society with a duty of care for our listed churches. I am shocked indeed that it has apparently so far lost sight of its remit as to actively encourage your West end proposals, with the irreparable loss that flows from them. Were you having to seek listed building consent of a similar nature from CDC I doubt you would get very far.</p>			
<p>I am sure that your excellent plans to see the church well heated (with a system on the side of the angels), well and safely lit, with a fine sound system (but please no vast drop-down screen for the “songs” cf. Highworth, where its prevalent use wholly obscures the lovely East end which it was part of their costly works to reveal) and with chairs that are comfortable and flexible will command almost universal support. That in itself will achieve a huge part of the community benefit you seek and hence would be a major achievement worthy of pride for all.</p>	Heating	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody’s ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
<p>It is excellent news that a new stone floor can be laid on the Victorian tiles, thus reducing cost and risk. The levelling of access throughout the church will also be a real gain. I was, however, disturbed at your currently favoured choice of that grey Portland stone, which is not local and does not at all appear to harmonise with our Cotswold stone. A search should continue for an acceptable more golden shade which is also hard wearing</p>	Floor	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody’s ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
<p>I would regret the loss of the chancel screen, which I find to be light and unobtrusive. There would, however, be gains in opening up the chancel, with flexible specialist desks for our splendid choir. With reluctance and on further reflection, I would not die in the ditch to save the screen <i>if</i> (using the cottage and vestry) that created in all sufficient flexibility to abandon the West end scheme.</p>	Screen	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody’s ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
<p>It is very ill advised to go to your 20 September meetings with no firm costings and no credible financing plan (Luke 14.28). Three years on, people will simply not understand why this is so. Highworth spent £1.2m. Defer your meetings if you are not ready with the answers. If not, (with what I have called dining off the menu without prices) this will undermine the credibility of your questionnaire replies. You are launching this work, moreover, at a time when there are growing shortages of labour and</p>	Cost	Noted with thanks. Details of the estimated cost was provided at the presentation. This is based on a detailed estimate of components	

	<p>materials which will certainly fuel the tendency of the construction industry to have a generous inflation all its own.</p> <p>My experience as client seeking to steer two multi-million construction projects showed me contractors are highly imaginative in justifying overruns. Your basic costings need to be fully challenged, with a large prudent contingency and then another on top for “unknown unknowns”. The contractors are schooled to believe this contingency is there to be spooled out evenly over the period of the works as problems arise; you will need to work hard to keep it for a rainy day. This will be a complex project and I suggest that you will also need a professional project manager.</p>			
	<p>I gathered that, one way or another, all the related church reserves would by the end be consumed by this project. The old building will always pose conservation problems which we as good and faithful stewards must address. This is therefore potentially very disturbing as after this massive fund-raising effort it will hardly be possible to go back to the good people of Lechlade and ask for more.</p>	Funding	Noted with thanks. We recognise the need for ongoing funding for the restoration of the structure	
	<p>Whilst, understandably, you wish to adhere to the whole plan and nothing but the plan, I put it to you that promoting and separately costing and funding the basics (my first bullet, above) and the West end scheme will operate to maximise your support, for there will be some, perhaps many, who cannot accept the West end scheme and may not then give money to any part of the work.</p>	Phasing of work	Noted with thanks. We are proposing an integrated plan to meet the needs of the church community	
C17	<p>I am not sure this questionnaire is fit for purpose overall as there is not place at each point to make a dissenting choice. It appears to be structured not to obtain opinions but to affirm previously made decisions. I have answers for each point in the questionnaire</p>	Questionnaire	Noted with thanks. Refer to the Report Section 2 Background and the response in Section 4.7.2	16
	<p>1) Whether a space is more open and welcoming depends on the character of the people in control of the space not on a space itself. The space will certainly be more flexible by removing the pews, but I am not sure that chairs allow greater comfort and flexibility</p>	Open space	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody’s ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	

	<p>2) Plans to re-open the north porch will certainly provide a different entrance. To the right as you enter will be the new gallery, so I am not sure the entrance will be lighter than the current entrance. Likewise a raised floor and the new entrance are not necessary to provide all ability access as that can be provided from the west door by levelling up the floor round the entrance. The current entrance is almost level with the current floor anyway, so only some adjustments are needed here. Provision of toilets in a church building is not necessary as long as there is access to decent facilities in a close or adjoining building - in the current scenario this is Church Cottage, where work to improve the facilities there should be possible.</p>	<p>North porch</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. The proposals are to provide level access to the communion rail</p>	
	<p>3) The current building is a place of worship. This section makes it sound like the wish is to create a series of meeting rooms and a large function space (possibly for hire?). The new memorial hall has a number of excellent meeting rooms and there are rooms in Church cottage that can also be used as meeting rooms. For the Ringing room the option is to turn it into a space for meetings and Sunday school. This will disrupt ringing for services on Sunday mornings as I feel the ringers will have to move furniture out of the chamber to start ringing and then to move the Sunday school furniture in for them. Additionally, during the meeting with the Vicar and members of the PCC implied that during ringing for services, the ringing chamber would essentially be open. This is a highly dangerous situation as the ringers cannot monitor people around them while ringing, especially children as they are out of the line of site of the people ringing. At the end of our meeting, we were asked if we would continue to ring with the present plans and the majority of people who ring for services said they would not as the situation appears not to be safe. Moving the Parish Office to the vestry does make it more accessible than now, but so does moving it to the ground floor in Church Cottage, which is currently used for Sunday school, so one room in the ground floor of Church Cottage can be used for the Parish Office and Sunday School (instead of the Ringing room). We also asked who precedence over use of the Ringing room would have as it is needed for practice some evenings, as it is not safe or practical to ring for a service without some practice beforehand. The answer over how the Ringing room was not to become first a meeting room/Sunday school room</p>	<p>Meeting rooms Ringing chamber</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. The meeting spaces are primarily for use by the church before, during and after services and at other times</p> <p>We have discussed security arrangements with Taylors of Loughborough who service our bells. See report section 4.7.5 for response</p>	

<p>and storage area was those protocols would be in place. The Vicar was not clear who would police the protocols, or how they would work.</p>			
<p>4) Air source heat pump and under floor heating sound like reasonable ideas, as does new lighting, however I am not aware of any solid evidence that this is so, as no figures were presented on current and forecast running costs, so this question is meaningless without more context.</p>	<p>Heating</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. We have engaged a heating and lighting consultant who have advised us on the design</p>	
<p>5) In terms of heritage - there was once a gallery on the North aisle - has this been considered as an option? In the current plans there has been no consideration given to ventilation - e.g., to the proposed Ringing room. As a ringer, this is of particular concern to me. When I raised this point, I was told that this would be considered. At our meeting this was discussed but only briefly and I consider in an off-hand way for my concerns. I have not seen plans for providing adequate ventilation in this grade 1 listed building</p>	<p>North gallery Ventilation</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. We have engaged a heating and lighting consultant who have advised us on the design including ventilation. Ventilation will be addressed at the detailed design stage</p>	
<p>6) I am surprised that facilities to support worship is combine with events and is the last on the list. How is a kitchen involved in services? How will improved audio-visual equipment improve services? What does the PCC mean by audio-visual equipment even - I did not see anything to give me confidence that this area has been thoroughly investigated? Neither do I recall seeing any cost estimates for this. I have experience with audio-visual equipment for theatrical work, and for these situations a detailed lighting plan was needed for the building along with a separate detailed sound plan - e.g., how much light is to go where, where does the sound go - are there dead areas, does the light level need to change or the colour temperature? All this costs a lot of money to get right and if the plan is to use the church for events other than service this needs to be planned and costs calculated.</p>	<p>Audio visual</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. For those who attend worship and events in the church, the kitchen is an essential facility to provide drinks and light refreshments. Noted with thanks. The use of AV will be dependent on the form of service and at the discretion of the minister</p>	
<p>7) If I presented a proposal with an end cost and no breakdown for a project (such as I have seen for this) at work, I would be asked to do a lot more work and return to management with solid worked numbers that can be tested. Obviously, the PCC have done a lot of work on this, but to not give site of detail workings for costings does make me wonder if these are just "finger in the air" numbers or detail. I do not have a high level of confidence that the proposed works can be carried out in the given budget. Also, any changes have to be reversible for the future, as in 10- or 20-years'</p>	<p>Cost</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. Details of the estimated cost was provided at the presentation. This is based on a detailed estimate of components</p>	

	time the PCC then may have quite different ideas how the church needs to be constructed for use.			
	One question that was raised during the Ringer's meeting with the Vicar and representatives of the PCC was why can work not be done to Church Cottage, which is grade 2 listed, yet can be done to the Church building which is grade 1 listed? As far as I recall, the answer given was the Cotswold district council was consulted and the PCC were informed that the required changes to Church Cottage would be refused, but no evidence for this opinion was given and I have not found any correspondence relating to this, which leaves the question of when this consultation happened, what was discussed, and who were the participants?	Church Cottage	Noted with thanks. See report section 4.7.4 for response	
	During the initial consultation, plans were presented that required building work to the north side of the church. The reason for this was that additional building work could not take place on the south side as that would disturb graves. Does this still stand? As there are graves inside the church building, how does the works affect them, as the weight of the gallery is substantial and likely will affect the internal graves?	Graves	Noted with thanks. Ye, building on the south side of the church is not feasible because of the listed tombs and graves. Geotechnical investigations have confirmed that graves are not present in the areas of the gallery foundation. The gallery structural design will ensure that weight is evenly distributed across the existing floor	
C18	First, I would just like to thank you all for your generosity, both in time and spirit, on Thursday afternoon. Quite clearly, you have all put a great deal of thought and work into your project and I was impressed by your personal commitment to its success and whether I agree entirely with your aims or not, I appreciate your candor.	Positive	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	Additional letter
	The first priority, in my view, would be to do the restoration of the fabric which would include the heating, lighting, electrics, the removal of the pews (to be replaced by suitable chairs) and the floor being raised to the levels you described and which I must admit had thought could not be done; I think that it is an excellent idea. By doing this essential work in the way you outlined to us will fulfill everyone's wishes to make the Church a light, warm and comfortable place	Floor Lighting	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	

	<p>of worship as well as give us the flexibility for other uses. This is exactly what we all want. I would hope that this work could commence sooner than later.</p>			
	<p>The only change I would ask you to consider is on the floor tiles; I would gather that you prefer the harder wearing gray Portland stone whereas I think that the much lighter Cotswold would not only be more appropriate bearing in mind we are a Cotswold Church, but the lighter colour would reflect the light from the windows better and enhance the sense of warmth within the building. I am sure that a harder wearing Cotswold stone can be found.</p>	<p>Floor tiles</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody’s ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.</p>	
	<p>With regard to the second phase (my term) I can only express my sense of loss when I consider your plans for the Western end of the Church interior. Once you have completed the work, I described above we would have a most beautiful, large and well-proportioned interior of which you could be proud. Instead, you are proposing (and to be fair, have always done so) to reduce this wonderful light and airy space by some 20% in order to install galleried seating which will only diminish the beautiful interior proportions of such a wonderful building which has stood the test of time.</p>	<p>Gallery</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. The gallery should be considered with the removal of the choir screen to provide an open aspect to the east window</p>	
	<p>As we pointed out at the meeting, we have all the facilities we would need in Church Cottage and while I would agree it needs a great deal of work, it will give new life to the cottage and become an asset to the Church. Yes, it would also involve hard discussions with the council, but I have no doubt that common sense and a willingness to compromise would win the day. A small point to consider: if you simply accepted that no work can be done on the cottage, then you have a worthless asset and if you are planning to sell the cottage then who would wish to buy it? The answer is, of course, that a developer would be able to get the changes done, but then so could we. There is a fundamental difference in the thinking between us and I wonder if I could offer a few thoughts? You are a very impressive group and have been working together for some considerable time now. That you have gelled together is obvious, as is the generosity of spirit you show to each other and others, including us on Thursday. I wonder, though, if you have not been in danger of falling into a state of “mindset”? I don’t mean this as an insult, but it can occur in close</p>	<p>Church Cottage</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. See report section 4.7.4 for response. We have followed a professional approach in evaluating options. A feasibility study has been carried out by our conservation architects to reach a preferred design. This has been subject to discussion with and challenge from the DAC to derive the proposed design</p>	

	<p>working groups and is a common feature in aircraft accidents where human factors come into play; there are countless examples of this in military planning as well.</p> <p>Ever since you convened the first presentations, you have indicated that this will be a single and joint project in which the renovation of the cottage was not part of the plan; your readiness to accept the council’s verdict does make me wonder if this was the answer you wanted to hear so that you could continue in the direction you wanted to go.</p> <p>We have all been subject to “mindset” at different times (myself included) in which our discussions are self-affirming and we only hear the answers we would like to hear. When in my professional life I was appointed as a safety auditor, it was a factor which emerged in a number of incidents in which safety was compromised and while it is true that no one will die here, the principles of the thought process are the same. Interestingly, the fact that you have always insisted that the re-ordering project is a single endeavor and not two separate, but interlinked ones is an indicator.</p> <p>I would ask you, therefore, and in genuine humility, to rethink how you approach this project. Make it two and rethink the use of the cottage. Please don’t take offence at my suggestion. You are clearly a group which has worked extremely hard and with a common goal; you get on well and, in your view, you have come up with what you believe to be the right solution and (possibly) with no dissent within your group. This can be both helpful and dangerous.</p>			
	<p>Towards the end of the meeting there were a number of questions put to you about finance, all of which went unanswered, but which you indicated you will answer in October, notwithstanding that you plan presentations in September. I have to say here that I feel very uneasy about your approach to this important subject. I wish you well in that, but I suspect there will be quite a few who will share my fears.</p>	<p>Cost</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. Details of the estimated cost was provided at the presentation</p>	

Appendix A4 – Comments log: Not Supportive - Negative

Number	Comment	Topic	Project Inspire response	ref
D1	Apart from improved lighting and heating, I think it is desecration of a beautiful church and a total waste of money which Lechlade does not have.	Cost	Noted with thanks	4
D2	The proposed changes would make the inside of the church more like a non-conformist church and the Sunday morning services have gone that way already. We have noticed the many comments in the book on the table at the back of the church stating how visitors have greatly appreciated the look of the church on entry. We don't think it will have quite the same impact with the changes. We have worshipped at the church for 45 years and love the look and feel of the building. We get a feeling of bring in God's presence there. The rush to modernise and make flexible takes away the history and grandeur of the site and like modern services makes it far more mundane. We agree that much thought hand effort has gone into the plan, but we do not like the style of implementation We agree that the heating walls and flooring need attention. Also, we like the idea of internal toilets and rooms for meetings and the Sunday school. The church was built and consecrated for church services not as a local amenities centre	General	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	5
D3	No to remove screen - not a valid improvement - many are alienated by project and despair at damage being suggested by PCC heritage is not being conserved	Screen	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	6
	Not reinstating the gallery - something different will not improve the church scheme inappropriate not like Bourton concerning lack of understanding for the qualities of St Lawrence and of significance of historic features	Gallery	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver	

			everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	
	Also, Questionnaire unfit for purpose. Promotion of project is full of misleading statements and dishonest A shameful and disappointing process for a DAC faculty application	Questionnaire	Noted with thanks. Refer to the Report Section 2 Background and the response in Section 4.7.2	
D4	the proposals are largely misconceived as they omit any reference to the national importance of this Grade I listed church and its origins before the 18th Century and proposals would destroy one of the '6 great Cotswolds churches' (David Very)	Heritage	Noted with thanks. The importance of the Grade 1 church is noted in our submissions to the DAC	7
	the existence of the cottage which could with effort be adapted.	Church Cottage	Noted with thanks. See report section 4.7.4 for response	
D5	This was not a balanced survey. Only positives were portrayed in questions.	Questionnaire	Noted with thanks. Refer to the Report Section 2 Background and the response in Section 4.7.2	8
D6	many of proposals are waste of money. God knows what the motives behind the farrago are. Are they turning away from the very real problems of the CofE and indulging in virtue signalling and displacement activities	Cost	Noted with thanks	12
D7	The project is naive and likely to become St Lawrence's 'HS-2'. It tries to cram too much into too little space. There was much reference to 'removal and storage' but very little storage provision. Far too much emphasis on social events, Lechlade has plenty of social and events space, the re-ordering should concentrate on worship.	Cost	Noted with thanks	14
D8	This is not a questionnaire; it is a beauty parade and is a disgrace that you are not willing to hear and note objections. A Christian approach takes discordant voices seriously.	Questionnaire	Noted with thanks. Refer to the Report Section 2 Background and the response in Section 4.7.2	17
D9	Where there is a need to renovate the church in order to maintain the building or replace outdated heating systems, I support this. I wonder if this expenditure will actually lead to an increase in congregation. How many people have been to a service and left/not returned due to the church facilities? Unless it's a significant number, I don't believe a lighter atmosphere, or an up-to-date kitchen will make much difference	General	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	23

	. The recently replaced memorial hall already provides an abundance of flexible meeting space which I believe is not currently utilised at all times so does the village need more flexible space?	Meeting rooms	Noted with thanks. The meeting spaces are primarily for use by the church before, during and after services and at other times	
D10	I am not sure that this is the right time to be raising money for this project when there is so much hardship in the world due to covid & the rising cost of living - enough problems with the west doors now?	General	Noted with thanks	25
	Not happy about unisex toilet - and will they be available during the week when church open to visitors - if so, could become alternative to toilets in Burford st! how is all the glass to be kept clean	Toilets	Noted with thanks. Access to the toilets will be controlled	
	Visited Bourton - liked screen still at E end - some pews retained - could s. aisle still have pews in our church.	Pews	Noted with thanks. We shall take into account your comments in developing the detailed design	
D11	Without any cost information it is impossible to approve or object - as a dream it is very good	Cost	Noted with thanks. Details of the estimated cost was provided at the presentation	27
D12	Having attended a Project Inspire presentation in the church, read the printed project summaries and statements, attended a meeting with representatives of the project team, and submitted one of the associated questionnaires, I am compelled to write and set out my concerns for the future well-being of St Lawrence Church: both building and community. These concerns relate to a number of different issues, including the representation of the project to the community, the collection of feedback through the questionnaire, the project's understanding of the history and significances of the building and its fittings, the proposed new-build design quality, and the way in which the project is affecting those who do not agree with its potential impact on the church building.	General concern	Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.	Additional letter
	The project presentation has been misleading about the damage to be inflicted on the historic interior of the church, representing this as an entirely positive outcome, despite the proposed destruction of the fine Victorian interior and obstruction of the medieval west end. The repeated claim that the project is 'conserving our heritage' is self-evidently and plainly untrue - this has undermined the integrity of the project and alienated many people in our community who have known and loved the church for decades. If we cannot trust what is being stated, how can we	Questionnaire	Noted with thanks. Refer to the Report Section 2 Background and the response in Section 4.7.2	

	<p>believe that you want to hear or respond to our concerns? Similarly, the statement that the project will benefit everyone in the community is not fair. There are many people who already feel excluded by the project and its pursuit of irreparable harm to the inspiring church interior. This is undermining faith in the process and in the church as an inclusive community. The questionnaire, which allows the respondent 18 tick boxes to acquiesce to the project and only 1 to disagree, has caused deep distress to those who are wary of the harm that the project will inflict. It skews the data and allows it to be presented in a biased manner, but more desperate is the way it removes any sense of having a voice, or fair hearing, for those distressed by the nature of the scheme. That the questionnaire will be used as part of an application for Faculty consent is also deeply unfair.</p>			
	<p>Similarly, there are many serious points of concern relating to the project’s statements of significance regarding the historic and architectural values of the interior. The project’s philosophy that Victorian fixtures are not important is both worrying and flawed, while the repeated citing of reorderings in the past as the rationale for this current reordering is indefensible in conservation in the 21st century. It strongly indicates the need for more appropriate levels of expertise to advise the project. This philosophy, set out repeatedly in the project presentation, is comparable to a housing developer proposing to demolish a listed Victorian building because, in the past, the Victorian owners had pulled down a Georgian building, a hundred years before. This flawed and deeply concerning argument, put forward repeatedly in the ‘Project Inspire’ promotional content, demonstrates that, currently, the scheme is not based on a sound or appropriate conservation philosophy. That these statements are being made at all demonstrates that the expertise being applied to the scheme, for a grade-I listed building, needs addressing.</p>	<p>Significance</p>	<p>We have engaged a professional archaeologist, a conservation architect and a firm of heating and lighting consultants to assist us in preparing the design and supporting documents</p>	
	<p>Similarly, referring to the purported ‘good design’ of the project’s new balcony and associated additions, the statements made in the project documentation demonstrate that the basic understanding of design is limited and needs to be re-assessed. The statement that the project would be ‘reinstating the west balcony that was in place prior to 1881’ is misleading and incorrect, because plainly the two balconies would be entirely different in their materials, design, constructional details and their</p>	<p>Gallery</p>	<p>We have engaged a professional archaeologist, a conservation architect and affirm of heating and lighting consultants to assist us in preparing the design and supporting documents</p>	

	<p>impact on the historic interior. This statement should trigger alarm about the current level of design appreciation and indicate a need to reassess what is being proposed. Another similar example, in the scheme’s presentation, relates to the repeated statement that the building will be lighter once the project is complete - this will be a difficult design goal to achieve after the project has obstructed so many of the light and inspiring medieval windows in the west end. This statement shows a troubling flaw in the relationship between the stated objective of the design and the actual impact within the historic interior. This also needs to be reappraised to ensure that the project’s objectives are being reflected in the actual details of the scheme.</p>			
	<p>Regarding the project’s impacts on the architectural and historic, the major new construction of balcony, kitchen and meeting rooms within the body of the church will have a highly significant, detrimental impact on the historic interior. It will occupying the western bay of the nave and aisles, concealing the original interior west-end and subdividing the imposing medieval space. The superb architectural achievement of the medieval interior (returned to us by the wisdom of the Victorian scheme) and described by David Verey as one of the finest parish churches in Gloucestershire, is badly compromised by this new-build scheme.</p>	<p>Kitchen Toilets</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. The facilities at the west end are important for those who attend services, prayer groups small meetings and events to progress the mission of the church</p>	
	<p>The comprehensive Victorian internal scheme of the church forms a crucial part of the historic and architectural history of St. Lawrence and enriches the quality and appearance of the medieval interior. The removal and destruction of these fixtures and fittings, which are all listed grade I, will diminish the character of the church and effectively erase a most significant episode in its history. Many of these listed Victorian features will be destroyed and/or sold for salvage - a harsh fact that is glossed over by enthusiasm for change in the ‘Project Inspire’ presentational material. These features are irreplaceable.</p> <p>A further matter of concern relates to the justification of need for the provision of these new facilities within the body of the church. The scheme cites those major invasive alterations to the church are necessary because permission for corresponding change in the adjacent Church Cottage, which is listed grade II, would not be granted by Cotswold District Council (CDC). So, by this illogical argument a far more damaging scheme is being</p>	<p>Heritage</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. The Grade I listing refers to the architectural features of the 15th century church</p> <p>The proposed changes are compatible with the future worship and mission of the church</p> <p>Noted with thanks. See report section 4.7.4 for response</p>	

	<p>proposed to the grade-I listed church - change that might be granted by the DAC, whereas CDC, allegedly, would not give listed building consent at the cottage. Self-evidently, this argument implies a bias in the regime of planning consent, implying that the DAC may approve where the CDC would not. This is highly controversial, and it's citing repeatedly by the PCC and 'Project Inspire' team has the potential to compromise the perceived reputation of the DAC, irrespective of fact.</p>			
	<p>It is extremely concerning that our fine medieval Cotswold wool church, listed as of national importance, may soon be extensively damaged and degraded by this reordering, driven by our own PCC. The architectural beauty and historic significance of St. Lawrence Church will be terribly-badly damaged, and the richness of its interior will be diminished for ever, degraded for all future generations. In a similar way, the manner in which this project has been presented and the feedback gathered has caused people to feel excluded. It has caused distress and alienation, as well, sadly, as distrust, and has already caused harm within our community.</p>	<p>Heritage</p>	<p>Noted with thanks. We understand that these proposals have caused genuine concern for a few people but sadly it is impossible to deliver everybody's ideal project and some compromises will inevitably be required.</p>	

Appendix B– Results from the 2018 consultation

We carried out an initial consultation with parishioners in October 2018. Four presentation meetings were held in the church on 3rd, 7th, 11th and 14th October 2018. At each meeting a PowerPoint presentation was shown, and the attendees were given the opportunity to ask questions. The drawings of the proposed options, at that time, were placed in the church for each meeting. Questionnaires were handed out to all the attendees and made available to those who were not able to attend. The questionnaire comprised four sections: Preferences; Objectives; Options; and Additional Comments.

We received 119 completed questionnaires following four open meetings on varying days and times. There were 161 people on the electoral roll. We made the same presentation at each meeting; there was good engagement with the parishioners with many questions asked. We analysed the results and presented our findings in a report. The key findings are set out below.

Objectives

The objectives of the Restoration and Reordering project (the project) were to:

- restore the building for the next 120 years;
- support worship and wellbeing of the church;
- enable flexible use of the building for all services and events;
- create access for all disabilities; and
- have enhanced facilities (for example better toilets, enhanced kitchen and an improved AV system).

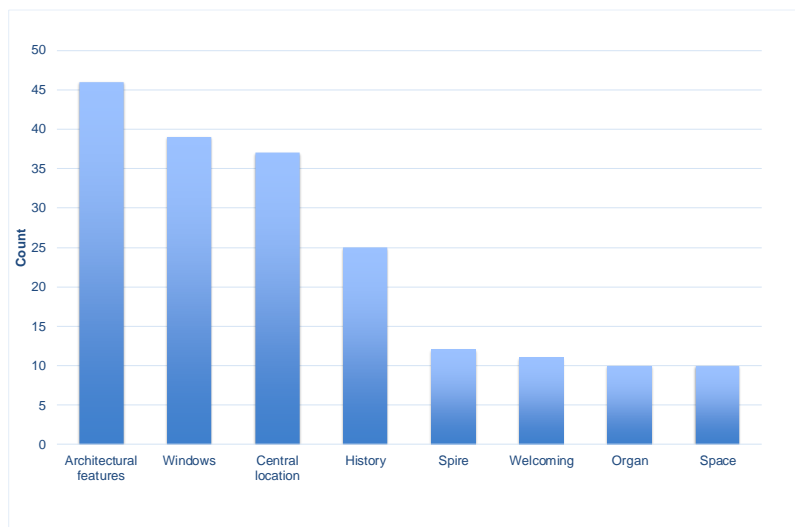
The main findings from this section are that

- there was overwhelming (91%) support for these objectives;
- 70 % of respondents did not disagree any of objectives; there were several comments raised by others. We noted these comments which were addressed in the development of the project;
- 64% of respondents did not identify any additional objectives although we received a range of constructive suggestions to consider; these were addressed in the development of the project.

Preferences – key features of the church

Parishioners were asked which three features they liked about the church. The response identified the main features were architectural features, windows, the central location and history. See Figure B1.

Figure B1: What three things that respondents liked about our church building



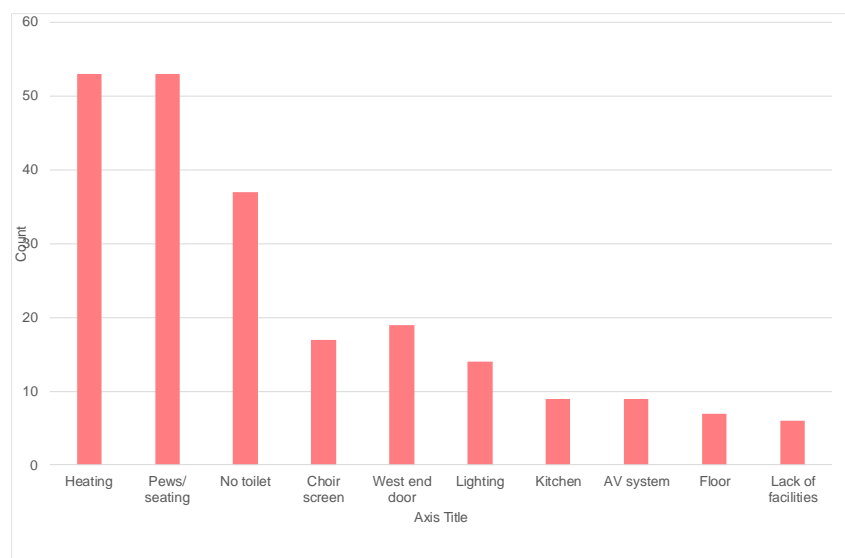
Preferences – key features found to be difficult

Parishioners were then asked to identify the three main features that they found difficult. The response identified the main features as:

- ineffective heating,
- the hard pews; and
- the lack of toilets in the church.

Other factors identified included the choir screen, the west end internal door, lighting, the kitchen facilities, the AV system, the condition of the floor and lack of facilities. See Figure B2.

Figure B2 - What three things that respondents found difficult about our church building



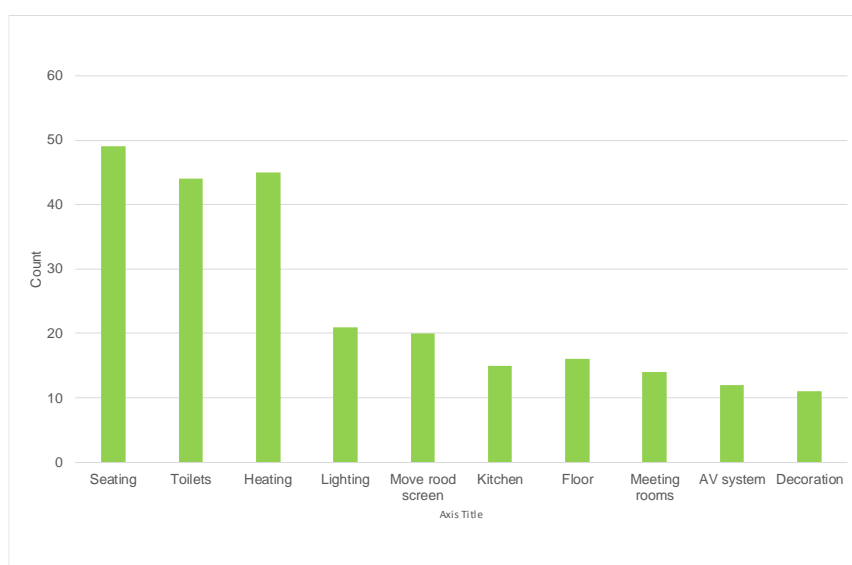
Preferences – improving the church building

Parishioners were asked to identify their top three ideas for improving the church building. The response included:

- Individual seating,
- the provision of toilets and
- improved heating.

These were followed by lighting, moving the choir (rood) screen, kitchen, the floor, meeting rooms, audio visual systems and decoration. See Figure B3.

Figure B3 – the three ideas that respondents had for improving the church building



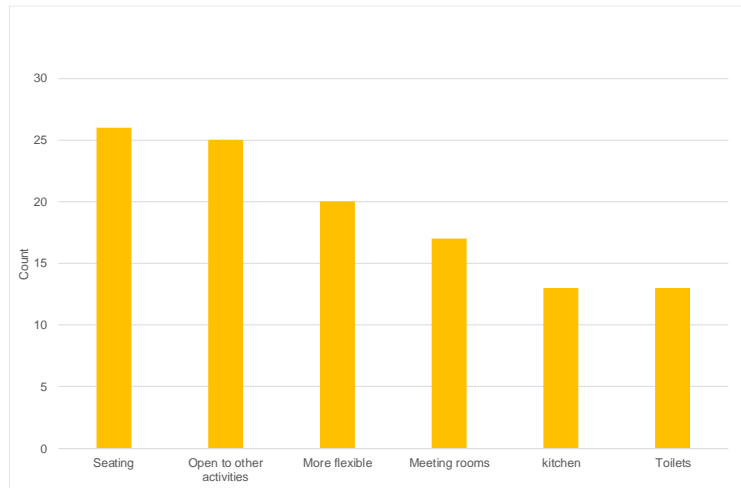
Preferences – making better use of the church building

Parishioners were asked to identify their top three ideas for using the church building:

- improved seating,
- open for other activities and
- more flexible for varied use.

These were followed by meeting rooms for church activities, kitchen and toilets. See Figure B4.

Figure B4 – How respondents thought we could make better use of the church building



Appendix C – Consultation publications

Figure C1 – Postcard (delivered to all households in Lechlade)



Presentation of Proposed Design

Bold and exciting plans to equip St. Lawrence Church for continuing worship and mission over the next 100 years have been developed. The design is now sufficiently advanced to present to the church family, the Lechlade community and surrounding villages. The proposed design reflects five key concepts:

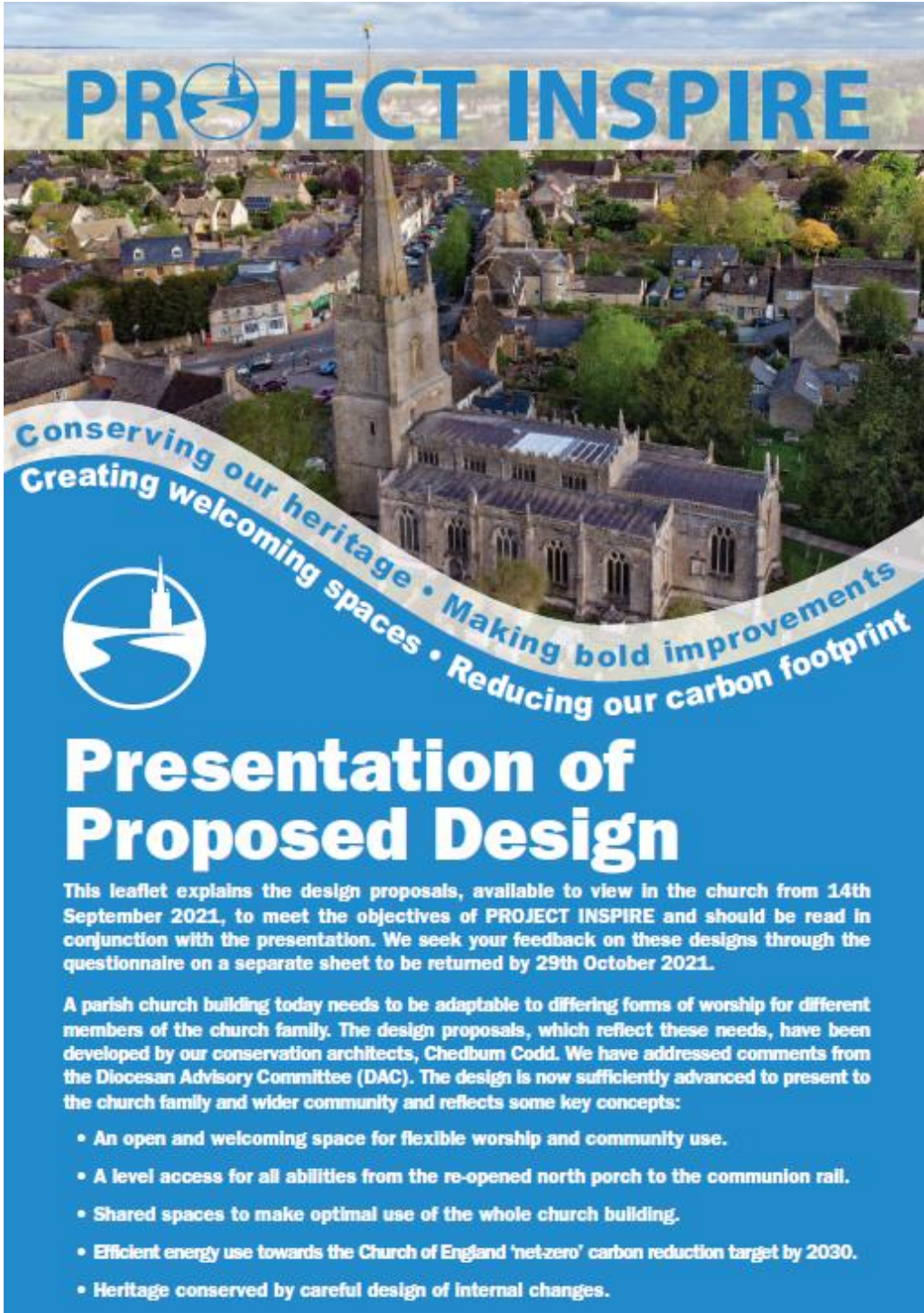
- an open and welcoming space for flexible worship and community use
- level access for all abilities from the re-opened north porch to the communion rail
- shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building
- efficient energy use towards the Church of England 'net-zero' carbon reduction target by 2030
- heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes

Please come and see the proposed design and learn about the history of the church and proposals for the future.

The presentation is launched on Tuesday 14th September to the church community and from Tuesday 20th September for the wider community for a period of six weeks. We are showing a short video, presenting the plans and explaining the proposals to small groups of people. There are time slots available on mornings, afternoons and evenings to suit people's preferences.

You can book a time to visit the presentation on-line at www.st.lawrencelechlade.org.uk or phone the Parish Office on 01367 358653. Alternatively, you can email us at projectinspire@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk you will also be able to view the video on-line and complete a feedback form after 14th September

Figure C2 – Leaflet (available at the presentation and online)



PROJECT INSPIRE

Conserving our heritage • Making bold improvements
Creating welcoming spaces • Reducing our carbon footprint

Presentation of Proposed Design

This leaflet explains the design proposals, available to view in the church from 14th September 2021, to meet the objectives of PROJECT INSPIRE and should be read in conjunction with the presentation. We seek your feedback on these designs through the questionnaire on a separate sheet to be returned by 29th October 2021.

A parish church building today needs to be adaptable to differing forms of worship for different members of the church family. The design proposals, which reflect these needs, have been developed by our conservation architects, Chedbum Codd. We have addressed comments from the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). The design is now sufficiently advanced to present to the church family and wider community and reflects some key concepts:

- An open and welcoming space for flexible worship and community use.
- A level access for all abilities from the re-opened north porch to the communion rail.
- Shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building.
- Efficient energy use towards the Church of England 'net-zero' carbon reduction target by 2030.
- Heritage conserved by careful design of internal changes.

Figure C3 – Questionnaire (available at the presentation and online)

PROJECT INSPIRE

Facilities to support worship and events

Heritage conserved by careful design

Energy efficient use to meet carbon reduction target

WORSHIP • MISSION AND EVENTS

An open and welcoming space

Level access from the north porch

Shared spaces to make optimal use of the whole church building

Conserving our heritage • Making bold improvements
Creating welcoming spaces • Reducing our carbon footprint

Presentation of Proposed Design – Your Feedback

We hope you have found the details of this project exciting and ask that you complete this questionnaire. Your feedback will help us to demonstrate responses to the proposals when we make a formal submission to the Diocesan Advisory Committee in Gloucester.

Once completed, please place it in the marked large box on the top of the chest by the west door of the church or submit an on-line version following the instructions on the website www.stlawrencelechlade.org.uk We shall note and record all the responses. All information will remain CONFIDENTIAL. We shall present the outcome of this feedback on a non-attributable basis.

Development of the design

The initial consultation in October 2018 provided overwhelming support for the project objectives - restore the building for the next 120 years, support worship and wellbeing of the church, enable flexible use of the building for all services and events, create access for all disabilities and provide enhanced facilities (including better toilets, enhanced kitchen and an improved AV system).

To achieve these objectives, the Project Inspire team together with its conservation architects, and with support from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, has developed a design which encapsulates all the objectives withing the existing church, without the use of any other building.

The design sets out to meet six key outcomes, shown below, consistent with the objectives to support our worship, mission and events at St Lawrence.

