

Partnership Feedback to MKCC on 'Proposed Scheme Questionnaire

The questionnaire focused on 6 main questions and gathered responses from 87 partners:

1. **How would you rate the design of the 'Proposed Scheme'?**
2. **How would you rate the access and parking layout of the 'Proposed Scheme'?**
3. **What do you like about the 'Proposed Scheme'?**
4. **What would you change on the 'Proposed Scheme'?**
5. **What additional services/facilities would you like to see incorporated into the New Scheme?**
6. **Do you have any other ideas that would help make the buildings/activities more beneficial for the local community?**

As some of the questions were answered on a 'rating system' we can report the following results:

1. **How would you rate the design of the 'Proposed Scheme'?**

Very good – 47 partners, Good – 37 partners, Just okay – 1 Partner, I don't like it – None, No rating – 2 partners

2. **How would you rate the access and parking layout of the 'Proposed Scheme'?**

Very good – 37 partners, Good – 39 partners, Just okay – 7 partners, I don't like it – 2 partners, No rating – 2 partners

The next set of questions asked for your opinions – here's a representative sample of comments made:

3. **What do you like about the 'Proposed Scheme'?**

General views

- Modern, smart, will be great to use
- Practical, Accommodating, exciting and also challenging
- Modern contemporary look coffee shop
- Looks modern and welcoming
- Looks good; a lot of thought has gone into it
- Very exciting, will make the church more prominent in Oldbrook
- It will stand out in the community – it looks inviting

Auditorium, Access, Parking and Café

- All facilities considered & accommodation catered for
- Lots of exciting features & parking more space, less congestion and better access to different areas (from car park)
- The design, the whole thing; the covered walkway gives focus to the whole building
- The auditorium and the space it provides
- The idea of separating the facilities and at the same time having easy access to them

- The overall appearance & flow of design & easy access to all areas
- Maximising space
- Bigger space for 650 people and parking
- Undercover linkage and access, increased car parking & the phased development
- New auditorium
- Café

Other Comments

- Continued use of existing building during the build
- New building is spectacular
- Wide parking
- Use of existing space for extension and additional parking
- Parking & layout
- It could be better
- Accommodates all ministries including kidz church which is bursting at the seams
- Good Layout – avoiding the MK ‘square’ design

4. What would you change on the ‘Proposed Scheme’?

Parking, Trees & Walkway

- Looks like ‘parking won’t be much improved’ (***See comment on parking below***)
- Maybe less trees; no trees in car parking because of roots affecting the surface and bad drivers (***See comment on parking below – planting of trees will almost certainly be a requirement of planning. There are ways of making sure that tree roots do not become a problem as can be see around Milton Keynes – bad drivers will always be with us***)
- To cover in the ‘covered way’ to protect against windy/wet weather (***The sides of the covered way will be open so as to allow some access without having to go to the end of the covered way in order to enter***)
- Better use of car parking area; is car parking being maximised in available space? (***See comment on parking below***)
- Can we have 2 entry/exit points for car park? (***A revised entry has been considered to the car park which will widen the existing. It will probably not be possible to have two access/exit points as this will impact on the existing highway.***)
- More car parking; a 2 storey car park may be looked into (***See comment on parking below***)
- Parking at entrance could cause bottleneck (***With an increased access point and consideration of traffic flows on site bottlenecking should be avoided***)
- Carefully fit in more car parking spaces (***See comment on parking below***)
- What are we doing with walkway at the rear of the building? (***There will be access to the building from the Red way to the rear of the site***)
- Parking; underground parking (not enough for 650) (***See comment on parking below***)
- Need to use space better for more cars; the car parking is not large enough (***See comment on parking below***)
- Finish the garden square by building rooms along the 4th fence side (***This could be an area for future development but at present is not required in order to meet our current brief***)
- Move auditorium to where car park is now and build 2 level car park on the new land (***See comment on parking below – the position of the auditorium has***)

been considered in three different places including the present car park position but the proposed position is considered to be the best)

- We need a bigger stage ***(Internal arrangements are still to be finalised. The new auditorium stage will be considerably bigger than our present stage)***

Auditorium

- More seating in the auditorium
- 650 is not enough for a growing church
- Make auditorium bigger
- Sitting capacity should be made bigger – guys
- 650 is small already
- a bigger auditorium

(The question of the size of the new auditorium has been one we have wrestled with for some time. Although there may not, in some peoples thinking, seem to be a great increase between what we have already and what we are planning, the reality is we will move from having an on site capacity for adults and children of 450 to 1075. We consider this to be a substantial increase)

Additional Facilities & Considerations

- A small garden area for photographs ***(The present courtyard will be upgraded)***
- More toilet blocks; a private area for breastfeeding ***(The toilet provision will reflect industry guidelines. We will be providing a purpose built crèche with breastfeeding facilities)***
- Consider light and ventilation ***(Noted)***
- Bigger meeting rooms and conferencing facilities ***(Room provision proposed will double as conferencing facilities)***
- Could we have multiple levels across the site? ***(This provides some difficulties when complying with the latest legislation for disabled access)***

5. What additional services/facilities would you like to see incorporated into the 'Proposed Scheme'?

Facilities (most requested)

- Baptism pool / water baptism tank ***(Included within the design brief but not shown as drawings do not at present include details on final fixtures)***
- Internet café ***(Included within the design brief)***
- Large kitchen and outside area for catering (BBQ) ***(Kitchen included in original design brief)***
- Parking - Additional levels for parking ***(See comment on parking below)***
- Underground car park to accommodate more cars on Sunday ***(See comment on parking below)***

Ministry Teams Related

- Musicians/workers lounge with a fridge; a place for ministry teams to prepare, pray & relax; room where small groups can meet ***(There will be some additional room adjacent auditorium – not sure about the fridge!)***
- Fresh start Lounge ***(There will be provision within the 'street' area between the auditorium and the existing building)***

- An open plan counselling area (***Not sure these two go together but there will be areas for a private talk and also areas within the café area***)
- Music & video studio; space for video and audio team (***Some provision within original design brief***)
- Auditorium used for more music related projects (***It will be***)
- IT room for servers and networking items (***Some provision within original design brief***)
- More consultation / training room leading edge technology for audio/sound (***Some provision within original design brief***)
- Minibus supervisor area & maintenance (***Not required necessary on site***)
- Meditation / quiet room; dedicated prayer room (***Other rooms will be available for these functions***)

Other Considerations

- Gymnasium – more funds to the church (***Not included within present brief***)
- Outdoor playground for the nursery (***Present courtyard to be developed***)
- Indoor / outdoor games/sport ground (basketball, football) and Youth training rooms (***Some provision within original design brief***)
- Will the coffee shop sell snacks as well (as in the Bradford church) which is such a blessing after service? (***Yes***)
- Energy saving features
- Loop for hearing aid users (***To be included within design brief***)
- Conference Centres rented out for business meetings
- Good community spaces

6. Do you have any other ideas that would help make the buildings/activities more beneficial for the community?

Services

- Use facilities for non church groups – exercise classes, parenting classes; flexible space for ministry to the elderly, young mums etc. (***Noted and provision made within design brief***)
- Social education (benefit awareness, workshops for work skills such as CV, job interview techniques) (***Noted and provision made within design brief***)
- Activities for the elderly (***Noted and provision made within design brief***)
- Place to hire out buildings for special occasions; rent out auditorium for seminars/workshops (***Noted and provision made within design brief***)
- Counselling services
- Youth music (***The youth will have its own designated area***)
- Care/health or medical focus; drop in health clinic (***Not included within present brief***)
- General local advise centre (***Not included within present brief***)
- Dedicated drop in / time out area (***Not included within present brief***)
- Define local – Oldbrook: youth centre, IT training, family centre, old people centre, parents & toddlers, breakfast centre, lunches (***Noted and provision made within design brief***)

Facilities

- Gymnasium (***Not included within present brief***)
- Coffee shop is great
- A sweet shop (***Not included within present brief***)

- An information board at the front of the site; an information centre for new people to Milton Keynes
- Starbucks (***Caf included – not necessarily Starbucks but good coffee***)
- Internet Café integrated with the café
- Sports facilities for youth; café open during the day (***The youth will have its own designated area***)
- A library where people can borrow Christian books, CDs etc (***Not included within present brief***)
- Expand bookshop for local community (***Not included within present brief***)

Considerations

- A 'welcoming building – not stark, cold or clinical
- Accessibility and disability issues considered in the design; good wheelchair access throughout including wheelchair lifts (***Will fully comply with latest disabled access legislation***)
- Must make sure that parking and activities are not a nuisance to those that live nearby but is a blessing
- Encourage people living nearby to walk and not use cars on Sunday (weather permitting)

7. Any other comments?

Comments for Consideration

- Use of Solar panels, long term savings
- Put a water fountain in front small grass circle in plan
- I will no longer have to tow cars off the grass
- Concerns that we will block up if we do not turn services around quickly
- The challenge to have people welcome yet not get bottleneck
- I would have liked an evening dedicated to the new building

Questions

- How do materials being used cater for 'noise' to the local community? (***The design team includes an acoustics expert who will advise on noise issues***)
- In the event of future growth, can we take the buildings up to a second storey? (***This would depend on planning constraints rather than buildability***)
- Security & lighting around the building
- Easy maintenance materials to save future costs
- Well marked parking disabled area
- How secure is this design? (***Very***)
- Vandals and thieves can take advantage of a very open building (***Noted – designed to avoid excessive open access***)
- Will the rented accommodation continue? (***Yes***)
- A general idea of time scale would be helpful. Also leaflets or web access of information & pictures are needed (***See section below***)
- What is the 'service area'? (***Access area for deliveries to rear of auditorium***)

Compliments

- You are all awesome, doing a fab job& I'm proud & privileged to be involved
- I am very honoured and pleased to be part of the vision of this church
- Looking forward to it all coming together
- Exciting!

- It's great to see the new development
- I trust the leadership judgement and wisdom and will support in whatever way I can
- Well done guys, it is a lot of hard work
- I sincerely appreciate the time and effort that has gone into this project so far
- Looking forward to seeing the 'new vibrant' MKCC
- Exciting time, looking forward to being part of it
- Very positive scheme, excellent way forward for the church to impact the immediate and wider community
- Good design
- Good step taken thus far
- Keep it up!
- Brilliant work
- Thank you & God bless you for what you are doing. I want and will be a part of this vision.
- Well done
- Excellent !!!

Thank you for your encouragement.

Car parking

There was much comment about car parking. The reality is that on the present site we would never be able to provide enough car parking on site for everybody to park their cars adjacent the auditorium. Although it is clearly not everybodys favourite, we are blessed to be able to use the MK College car park on Sundays. This will continue when we have our new building and forms part of our 'traffic statement' that goes to Milton Keynes planning. It is unlikely that any proposal for a 'multi storey' parking facility in a residential area would be successful. In any event, building such a structure would increase our building budget by £1 million or more and with the facility at MK College available such an expenditure can not be justified. Please be assured that the new design will maximise space that can be allocated to parking but your continued support in utilising the facility at the MK College is essential.