

**Shaping the heart of Stroud**

**Note of meeting**

**Place of meeting** St. Lawrence's church,  
then Woodruffs

**Date of meeting** 21.4.15

**Present:** (List names and roles)

Rev. Malcolm King, Hugh Barton

**Brief summary of issues discussed**

**Hugh up-dated Malcolm on the progress of the NDP**

**Malcolm revealed that the while the vicarage is owned by the diocese, the church, churchyard and church hall are owned by the vicar and church wardens of St. Lawrence's. The diocese has no intention to sell off the vicarage or its garden – there are in any case problems of slope and as spring on site. Selling the vicarage would not contribute one pound to the upkeep of the church.**

**Malcolm's plan is to progressively change the use of the church so that it becomes a community and cultural centre. The removal of the pews was the first stage. The audience capacity is as least 250. The plan now is to insert a new floor with underfloor heating, plus loos and a kitchen, then move the activities currently in the hall into the church, and sell the hall. Architects are soon to be engaged. The open gates and open doors policy would allow activities to flow between Shambles and church.**

**Malcolm's biggest concern in his early days in Stroud was the prevalence of drug-taking and rowdiness in Bank Gardens – spilling over into the hidden churchyard and even the vicarage garden. Through both physical barriers and social/police engagement with the young people, these problems are greatly reduced.**

**We talked more broadly about the ideas in the draft NDP. Malcolm felt the extension of church car park was well justified by its use on Saturdays.**

**Brief summary of outcomes** (to include what was agreed/disagreed)

Agreed to mark the Hall as potential renewal site in the draft plan, but remove the vicarage and its garden.

Agreed to keep in touch if any significant developments

<b>Any Actions</b>	<b>By whom</b>	<b>By when</b>
See above.	HB	As and when.