

3 March 2021

Mr Kevin Kelsall  
Little Blindhurst Farm  
Bleasdale Lane  
Bleasdale  
PR3 1UT

320210481P

Dear Kevin

I was very sorry to hear that Ribble Valley Borough Council had refused permission for Chipping Congregational Church to attach a wooden cross to the front of the building.

Speaking as one who lives opposite the Congregational Church I have no objection whatsoever to seeing simple wooden cross on the building. Speaking as the Vicar of St Bartholomew's, Chipping I entirely support the Congregational Church's desire to have a clear symbol of our shared Christian faith on the front of your building.

I looked at the papers on the Council planning site and as far as I can see there have been no objections from local residents. The only response has come from a local authority Conservation Officer. His report compares the presence of a cross on a place of Christian worship as akin to seeing "satellite dishes, meter boxes, burglar alarms, security and other floodlighting, video cameras, and central heating and other flues..." on village buildings. I find this comparison both unreasonable and quite frankly offensive. I am astounded that a public servant should insult Christians by comparing the most significant symbol of our faith to a satellite dish. One wonders if he would feel it appropriate to make such insensitive comments about the symbols and architecture of other faiths.

I sincerely hope that your appeal is successful.

With all good wishes