

Heritage Statement

Proposed Replacement of Existing Single-Glazed Windows with Like-for-Like Double-Glazed Windows

Property:

St Mary's Centre Community Hall

Church Street

Clitheroe

Lancashire

BB7 2DG

1. Introduction

St Mary's Centre is a long-established community building situated within the Clitheroe Conservation Area. The purpose of this statement is to demonstrate that the proposed works have been carefully designed to preserve the character and appearance of both the building and the surrounding conservation area while improving the building's environmental performance and ensuring its continued viability as a valued community facility.

2. The Building

St Mary's Centre has served the Clitheroe community for well over a century and provides an important venue for a wide range of community activities. The building accommodates children's groups, fitness classes, drama and music activities, community organisations, private functions, educational events, and charitable activities, with several thousand visitors each year.

The building is an important community asset whose continued use depends upon maintaining a comfortable, safe, and energy-efficient environment for its users.

3. Existing Windows

The main hall currently contains a series of original-style arched, single-glazed windows.

Although these windows continue to contribute positively to the appearance of the building, the single glazing results in significant heat loss during colder months. This affects user comfort, increases heating costs, and reduces the environmental performance of the building.

An independent energy assessment concluded that replacing the existing single glazing with double glazing would substantially reduce heat loss and improve the efficiency of the building while allowing it to continue serving the community for many years.

4. Proposed Works

The proposal is to replace the existing single-glazed arched windows with new double-glazed units.

The replacement windows will:

- Retain the existing window openings;
- Replicate the existing arched design and proportions;
- Match the existing external appearance as closely as practicable;
- Retain the existing opening arrangement;
- Preserve the visual character of the building

- Improve thermal performance through the installation of energy-efficient double glazing.

No extensions, alterations to the building envelope, or changes to the use of the building are proposed.

5. Impact on the Conservation Area

The building lies within the Clitheroe Conservation Area, where maintaining the area's architectural character is an important planning consideration.

The proposed works have been specifically designed to minimise any visual impact.

The proposal does not involve enlarging or reducing window opening, altering the architectural detailing, changing the overall appearance of the building; or introducing new architectural features.

The replacement windows are intended to appear virtually identical to the existing windows.

Consequently, the proposal preserves the appearance of the building and will not harm the character or appearance of the Clitheroe Conservation Area.

6. Sustainability

Improving the environmental performance of older community buildings is essential if they are to remain viable in the future.

Replacing the existing single glazing with modern double glazing will:

- Significantly reduce heat loss (see separate energy report) and improve comfort for building users.

- Reduce energy consumption and lower carbon emissions, and reduce running costs.
- Support the long-term sustainable use of this important community building.

The works form part of St Mary's Centre's wider programme of improvements designed to secure the future of the building while respecting its historic character.

7. Community Benefit

St Mary's Centre provides practical and affordable space for numerous local organisations and community activities throughout the year.

Weekly User Groups - Toddler Group, Ladies Badminton Club, Aerobics Class, Tai Chi Classes (including one for those with a disability), Ladies church club, Art Classes, Uniformed Organisations, Line Dancing, Children's Drama and Musical Theatre classes, Operatic & Dramatic Society rehearsals & performances, Puppy Training classes, Children's Dance and Fitness classes, Jujitsu classes for all ages, CVS support group sessions, Junior Herbalists monthly classes.

Monthly/Annual Events - Dance and Theatre School Performances, School Rehearsals and Performances, Wedding Receptions, Christening Parties, Support Group Sessions, Wakes, Bazaars, Fairs, Valuation Days, Local MP's surgery, First Aid Courses, Quiz Nights, Family Bingo Nights, Annual Ribble Valley Jazz & Blues Festival information hub and concerts, Tribute Act concerts plus many one-off meetings of various private companies.

Replacing the windows in the main hall will create a warmer, healthier, and more comfortable environment for all users, particularly young children, older people, and other vulnerable groups.

The proposal will also help safeguard the long-term future of an important community facility by reducing maintenance and heating costs and encouraging increased community use.

8. Conclusion

The proposed replacement of the existing single-glazed windows with carefully designed like-for-like double-glazed units represents a sensitive and proportionate improvement to St Mary's Centre.

The proposal preserves the architectural appearance of the building, maintains the character and appearance of the Clitheroe Conservation Area, and delivers significant environmental and community benefits.

The works therefore represent an appropriate enhancement to an important community asset and are considered to preserve the significance of the conservation area while supporting the building's continued sustainable use.

