

ADDENDUM SHEET

Planning Committee
15 February 2024

7.1 & 7.2 – Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Square, Colchester

Late representations received as follows:

Representation 1.

Dear Chairman and members,

I was hoping to attend and speak but the two places have already been taken hence this letter.

Trinity Church is the oldest building still standing in Colchester built in 10000 there are significant people buried their what is being planned in my view is shameful and desecration of the memory of our forebares. I am aware of the responses to the city centre but how many have any proper history in this city, my family goes back centuries in Colchester.

My parents married in Trinity in December 6th 1947 with photos taken in the church yard. Removal of gravestones is just plain and simply wrong.

The history needs to be retained and protected and respected instead of what is proposed which doesn't respect anything.

I hope you will refuse this application and secure the area and its future.

I which to associate myself to The civic society and Sir Bob Russell comments.

Yours

Gerard Oxford

Representation 2.

Dear Mike

I understand that the plans for the renovation of Holy Trinity Churchyard come up at the Planning Committee tomorrow.

In conversations that the Head of Service Delivery for the Diocese of Chelmsford (Nathan Whitehead) has had with Alison Fogg, Nathan has reiterated what I said at a meeting with people from the Town Deal and Colchester Civic Society, that any works on the churchyard have to be in compliance with Section 78 of the Mission Pastoral Measure. To this end, it has been suggested that I act as the link person on behalf of the Diocese and the Diocesan Bishop. It would therefore be helpful to be kept in the loop as to what is planned and when - just so that I can see whether it falls within the scope of the aforementioned measure or whether the use or development of the churchyard necessitates referring the matter to the Secretary of State.

Just to be clear, headstones can be moved and relocated but that has to be done in accordance with the aforementioned measure. Headstones are the property of the personal representatives of the deceased (although these links may now be historic in many cases - but perhaps not exclusively)

The works seem to be able to be done without disturbance of burials, but if that is not the case then you'll need to act in accordance with the Measure. I would imagine if nothing else you won't want the extra budgetary strain that comes from disturbance of remains.

It was said at the meeting with people from the Town Deal and Colchester Civic Society that the land had not had a use for some time. As I pointed out at the time, it does, of course, have a use as the final resting place of those buried. Naturally any plan has to be sensitive to that and in line with that continued primary purpose.

I hope this makes sense - but you may wish to refer to these points at the meeting and may indeed want to bear these matters in mind when applying conditions to the planning decision.

with warmest wishes

Rt Revd Roger Morris
Area Bishop of Colchester