

Community Conference 7th July 2022
Session 3
The Old Chancel – What do we want to see?

In attendance:

Hilary Goodreid – Town Clerk
Sir Peter Fahy – trustee of The Old Chancel
Chancel School Council

This session was to look at the future of The Old Chancel building in Rugeley. This is an historic building which is currently closed to protect it from vandalism. The space is in four sections – the roofed section, the skeleton arches from the old chancel, the tower, and the green space around the building.

There is a group of Trustees who are looking at how the building can get developed and discussions have been held with national funding bodies to see what financial support is available – initially to create a feasibility study for the building, but ultimately to look at the funds to create the finished redevelopment/refurbishment.

The Chancel School had been considering what they would like to see happen to the building. Their ideas included:

A café – open days and after school

A museum which showed the history of Rugeley town

After School Club – arts and crafts for young people – possible in the Tower – Show Art and create art – print out the arts design instructions so you can take away the art materials.

Viewing platform from the top of the tower

Glass covering of the arches so that it is connecting the outside space to the inside café

Bike racks in the green space

Basketball Court

Library / place for quiet contemplation

Play area for smaller children / nursery where the Children from Chancel School look after the babies!

Rebuild the statues in the grounds

Reflect the mining history of Rugeley

Keep it family orientated – space to forget the outside world with no WIFI!

Hands on activities / history to link to school curriculum on local history

The meeting was live streamed on our Facebook page and the following comments were received from that:

Uncover the stained-glass window that was dedicated to a local man for his services to bell ringing

A tourism hub

Something for elderly residents

Dementia café

Stroke Club help – come in and get blood pressure checks / promote good health etc