

Hallingbury Free Church (Representation from Owners)

From: Robin Baker

Sent: 14 February 2018 15:36

To: Sarah Nicholas

Subject: Re: Little Hallingbury Free Church - Asset of Community Value

Dear Sarah

Further to our telephone conversation, the facts about Hallingbury Free Church are as follows:

- it is a small independent church that has never had any association with the Church of England. It was set up by some merchants during the 19th century.
- the last religious service was held there in mid 2012 and the church was then closed as there was no interest from anyone in the community in attending. An attempt was made to see if the parish church had any interest in using the building, but there was none
- despite advertising the availability of the hall attached to the church, there was little interest. The only groups using the hall now are a Scottish dancers group that meet for 2 hours once a week most weeks of the year; and a Flamenco dance group that uses it occasionally for 2 hours - maybe once or sometimes twice a month. Attendees to these groups come from a wide catchment.
- the building remains empty at all other times.
- the Trust Deed allows the premises to be sold seven years after the last religious service has been held there, so as Trustees we plan to put the premises on the market in 2019. We have had some interest already in a conversion to residential property, but a lot of work is needed as the building is not in good repair.

The Trustees therefore do not wish the premises to be designated as an asset of community value and are concerned that this proposal has been made without any reference to us and with untrue statements being made.

Please convey this information and statements to the Committee on 16th February.

Regards

Robin Baker

Chairman of Trustees of Hallingbury Free Church