



The Church of England
in Essex and East London
Diocese of Chelmsford

Diocesan Office, 53 New Street, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1AT

Email: nwhitehead@chelmsford.anglican.org

Tel: 01245 294412

OUR REF : NW/2017/88
16 November 2017

Gordon Glenday
Council Offices
London Road
Saffron Walden
Essex
CB11 4ER

Localism Act 2011 and Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012 (“the Regulations”)

Dear Gordon

I write on behalf of the Diocese of Chelmsford in response to the various letters notifying the Diocese about the District Council’s intention to consider designation, under the above provision, of the following properties:

- St Giles’ Church, Great Hallingbury
- St Mary’s Church, Little Hallingbury
- All Saints Church, Rickling
- St Simon and St Jude’s Church, Quendon
- Rickling Green Primary School

The Diocese of Chelmsford requests a review of the proposals relating to the church properties above on the basis that disposal of any church building, together with any land annexed or belonging to it, pursuant to a closure for regular public worship of the church use and a Scheme made under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011, is an exempt disposal under paragraph 12 of schedule 3 of the Regulations. The Measure involves a lengthy public consultation process as well.

In respect of the Primary School we request a review on the basis that the land was granted for educational purposes under the School Sites Act 1841 meaning that the right of reverter binds the site. I enclose an extract of the 1907 Parliamentary Return confirming that reverter applies. On reverter of the site, paragraph 15 of Schedule 3 of the Regulations will apply. You should be aware that closure of the maintained school requires a lengthy consultation period (two years) with the local community, parents and other stakeholders by the Diocese and the Local Authority under the education legislation and the community is therefore always kept abreast of any changes proposed.

Furthermore, listing the properties as Assets of Community Value when their disposal is specifically permitted or exempt would be out of keeping with the intention of this process and open to challenge.



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For clarity, I would point out that there are no plans for any of the buildings referenced above to come out of their existing uses which benefit their local communities and the Diocese is very supportive of that continuing to be the case.

I look forward to hearing from you with an update on the decision of the District Council.

Nathan Whitehead
Pastoral Secretary



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