

Action Minutes 18-10-22 PPC Meeting

Present:

Fr Francis Antwi-Darkwah	Mark James	Jackie Tominey
Emma Ahern	Maureen Kelly, Secretary	Nick Dodds (ex officio-communications officer)
Teresa Clarke	Elizabeth Lizzio, Vice-Chair	
Peter Godwin	John Lambert	
Christine Lambert, Chair	Martha Moroney-Lewis	

Apologies

Eamon Rafferty		

1	Welcome to Nick Dodd new ex officio Member, Communications
2	<p>Prayer Garden Proposal:</p> <p>Context Information:</p> <p>In early 2021, our Youth Group were asked to take forward their idea for a Prayer Garden at St Barts. The work which then followed by the Group and information gathered including costings and example schematic was shared with all Committee members on the 12.10. (see attached). Two project estimates had been secured:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. An all comprehensive from Blessed Earth which gave three options between £6680 to £10,700.2. The hard stone work and ground preparation quote from Unique Landscapes of £3915. <p>Additional information given at the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The total cost of the St Luke's garden had been confirmed as £45,0002. The full cost of the garden would have to be raised from Parishioners3. A third quote could be obtained from our current gardener <p>All members of the Committee were asked to give their views on whether the proposal should now move forward to Parish consultation stage. Members were asked to include thoughts on location, costs, design, timing and any other options.</p> <p>Key points from views expressed by members were:</p> <p>Member 1 -</p> <p>Very supportive of the Prayer Garden concept. It was important that the garden be easily accessible to all.</p> <p>Location: I support the garden being at the front location to achieve visibility and accessibility to all.</p> <p>Costs are of course a concern particularly at this time of rising living costs and interest rates. The Blessed Earth proposal was far too expensive.</p> <p>Timing: The completion of the garden may need to be in stages on costs grounds. The garden project should be begun as soon as possible.</p> <p>Member 2 -</p> <p>Location: I am not keen on middle garden.</p> <p>Timing: I would not support taking forward the garden concept this year due to the current economic climate impacting on all parishioners.</p>

Member 3 -

Location: The garden should be at the front location.

Timing: I would suggest to proceed with the project when 50% of funding has been secured. The next couple of years are likely to be very tough financially for all parishioners.

Looking forward to the garden maintenance we would need to ensure sufficient topsoil is laid. I would suggest that ownership within the Parish to maintain the garden could be secured.

Member 4 and Youth Group member - The initial idea was for a quiet area where adults and children could visit. The design put forward is nice. How the garden would be maintained needs to be considered.

Location: I support the garden being at the front location

Timing: I do not think now is the time to go to the Parish for funding given increasing living costs. Perhaps next year there will be improvement and we then go to the Parish.

Member 5 and Youth Group member- I confirm support for the proposal.

Location: I support the garden being at the front location

Costs: The Unique Landscapes quote is very reasonable and is unlikely to remain the same in 12 months' time. The hard stone work and ground preparation needs to be done by a contractor. The remaining work could be done from the parish with a small committee overseeing. Likewise the subsequent maintenance of the garden.

Timing: I would suggest Parishioners are consulted because of the quote we have secured from Unique Landscapes. This consultation would inform us of the level of interest in the garden concept and if there is sufficient support for fundraising over the forthcoming months. The consultation could include Parishioners telling us when would be the right timing. If our Parishioners consider the concept to be a worthwhile idea they will support.

Member 6 and Youth Group Lead-The prayer garden would provide a multi aspects experience for our young people: spiritual and learning of biology and eco-systems. We have looked at different Church gardens in the local area and considered their features. I think the prayer garden concept fits well into the mission of which our Parish is trying to promote of welcome and evangelisation as well as engagement of our younger people and provision of an accessible area of reflection for all. Rising costs is a real concern.

Location: I support the garden being at the front location

Costs: Unique Landscapes have given a really good quote. Rising living costs for all is a real concern.

Timing: I think we move forward to consult the Parish.

Member 7 -I love the idea of the garden. It is a great idea of welcome. Fruit trees and herbs could be incorporated. I like the idea of using crib casing more. Maintenance-parishioners and especially confirmation groups. Should be on an ongoing basis. Like having a small Committee to overseeing ongoing progress of the garden. Front garden. We should fund raise over time-from now until Spring. Also like a specific event as well as other approaches.

Member 8 + Youth Group member -A prior statement supporting the proposal had been filed. The schematic design is fine. Perhaps a mosaic in the centre rather than a statue.

Location: I support the garden being at the front location. Having a minimally controlled range of access to the middle garden would cause concern for hall events involving children as this garden area is often included as available at these times.

Costs: We would need a project team to take fundraising forward if Parishioners vote is to proceed.

Timing: I would start taking the idea forward with Parishioners now or shelve the idea at this time. A new proposal may then follow at a subsequent time.

Member 9 - I would be happy for the concept to go forward to the Parish. Personally, I am against the idea at this time. The quotes involve a lot of money for what would be delivered. I have concerns about how the garden could be maintained and how much it would be used. The area of exposed soil would need to be kept to minimum to keep weeds down.

Location: I would go for the front location because of the ecumenical factor.

	<p>Member 10 : Member 10 was unable to attend tonight but had sent thoughts to the Chair which she shared key points from. Member 9 was concerned that this was not the time to take forward to the Parish the garden project because of current increased costs of living for all our Parishioners and the financial demands on the Parish eg. an expected 3-fold increase in energy costs.</p> <p>Location: Member 9 would support the middle garden location.</p> <p>Member 11 : I love the idea of a prayer garden but this is not the time to introduce the concept to our Parishioners given the increasing costs of living and increased financial demands on the Parish. The changes we have made to the Marian altar in this anniversary year have provided an area for reflection by all Parishioners.</p> <p>Location: I do not think the front garden to be the right location due to current experience of school children congregating and at times behaving in an anti-social way. I am concerned that overtime, this would be an issue.</p> <p>Middle Garden Test: I do suggest that we could open the present middle garden with a lock on the gate as a test of interest for a prayer garden area. This would be limited to parishioners only. We can try a portable altar in the middle garden. We could make a focal point by using the current marble available.</p> <p>nb: no discussion or vote on this suggestion followed tonight. The Marian altar is now a beautiful space.</p> <p>Member 12 : The proposal would provide a great space for children to spend time after mass.</p> <p>Location: The front garden area would be an ideal location.</p> <p>Costs: The Blessed Earth quotes were high but do bring a lot of extras. If the front location was to be agreed security lighting would be a helpful feature to deter unwanted behaviours.</p> <p>Timing: Between now and Christmas we will all give quite a lot of thought into caring for those less fortunate. Perhaps in the New Year we have a better idea on the economy improving making Spring a better launch window.</p> <p>Fr Francis: On timing- Getting the timing right to take forward the garden concept to consultation stage with Parishioners is difficult. Account must be taken of the current rising living costs to all, of the increasing demands on Parish finances (especially heating of church and presbytery) and of the monies already asked of our Parishioners this year together with the fortnightly Westminster Diocesan collections. We also need to find out about health and safety implications from the diocese. Mid 2023 would be a better target date to launch the idea with the Parish.</p> <p>On location: We need to think through carefully the pros and cons between the front and middle garden locations. The front garden is the best for evangelisation. Against this are the concerns of the schoolchildren playing around and vandalism which would steer to the middle garden being a better location.</p> <p>Action: <i>It was thought that the Marlborough School Head should be spoken with to address concerns as to behaviours of a few of their pupils and that this could well make a difference.</i></p> <p>Post Meeting: <i>Emma Ahern acted on this and commitment has been given by the school to supervision of the church grounds' area at end of school day.</i></p>
3	<p>Actions from Minutes of 13 September 2022</p> <p>1.1 Children's Liturgy starts 30 October at 10.30 am Mass (3 volunteers)</p> <p>1.2 Books for children are now at the back of the church.</p>

	<p>1.3 Speakers to increase volunteers for existing – Peter to speak about the Knights of St Columba. Chair confirmed it was not considered appropriate for CWL to speak at this time. Anne McCarthy has recently spoken and had a collection for SVP.</p> <p>1.4 Parish Foodbank – Mark (Social Justice) organising this with Lizzie/Jackie supporting.</p> <p>1.5 Additional hymnbooks so all can use the same Mass settings – Fr Francis to consider once he has seen the state of Parish Finances at Meeting on 26/10. Peter G offered to pay for the books, if needed (or at least contribute to them). The Chair thanked him for generous offer.</p>
4	<p>Update on Parish Events held (plus any learnings) None to be given at this meeting.</p>
5	<p>Future Events</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advent Groups start on 21 November for 4 weeks. There are 3 groups 2 x F2F and one via Zoom. Sign up sheet and poster in the hall and on Parish website. 2. There will NOT be a Christingle Mass due to a lack of liturgical support this year. 3. Candlemas service to be held.
6	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Offer of donation of a Bench at front of the Church-The Committee had been informed of this offer at the September meeting. A number of the members present tonight confirmed support for the locating of a Bench at the front of the Church. Fr Francis advised that the offer could not be taken up due to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Having a Bench in this position was not characteristic for any known Catholic Church b. The Church would have liability for anyone sitting on or utilising the Bench including any accident or injury c. Ongoing insurance would need to be in place to cover liability One member present requested record was made of disappointment at this offer not being taken forward as the Bench would be a feature of welcome. 2. Chair requested members to consider if they wish to stay on PPC for a further period of 2 years or step down early 2023. If they wish to step down, to advise Fr Francis and Chair by the end of Nov 2022.
7	<p>Date of Next Meeting – Monday 14/11 via Zoom 19:30 The focus will be planning for 2023. Spirituality have already sent out their outline proposals in Sept 2022. If all groups can consider ideas and share in advance.</p>

2022 PPC Meeting Dates: Mon 14/11 (Zoom), Tues 13/12 (Zoom)