

**THE DOWER HOUSE**

**SCHOOL HILL**

**BIRCH**

**Nr COLCHESTER**

**ESSEX CO2 0LZ**

**Tel: 01206 330416**

**Church Commissioners**

**Church House**

**Great Smith Street**

**London SW1P 3AZ**

**29 January 2013**

**Attn: Anne Griffiths - Building Surveyor, Case Officer, Pastoral and Closed Churches**

**Dear Ms Griffiths**

**Subject: Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011**

**The closed church building of Birch St Peter, Diocese of Chelmsford**

**This will refer to your letter dated 2 January 2013, regarding the proposal to demolish the closed church of St Peter, Birch and the use of the site of the building as part of the existing churchyard.**

**My wife and I reside at The Dower House, situated across the Green and overlooking the Church. The only access to our property is via our driveway opposite the War Memorial.**

**After watching the Church deteriorate over the last twenty years or so, we have now come to the conclusion that, sad as it may be, there seems little alternative to its demolition and therefore we support your draft proposals.**

**Our only concern is the likely impact of the demolition work on our daily life. Demolition is likely to take several months and as you point out in your Explanatory Note, the only access to the site, at present, is across the narrow access road from the War Memorial. This access is barely one car width and clearly will not take the type of vehicles likely to be associated with the work. Furthermore, we already experience serious traffic congestion and parking problems immediately outside our property due to proximity of the School and any additional vehicles connected with the church demolition will only exacerbate the problems.**

**It might be possible to provide temporary access and parking to the East of the churchyard for the duration of the work and we would only ask that you take this into consideration if and when the demolition goes ahead.**

**Your Sincerely**

  
**G R Carr**