

John Daniels

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Mr Paul Lewis
Pastoral and Closed Churches Secretary
Church Commissioners
Church House
Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3AZ

12th November 2013

Dear Mr Lewis
Re: Future of Birch Church

We are writing to you with regards to Mr Balcombe of the North East Building Preservation Trust proposal of option 4 (the Cottee proposal) to turn the current redundant church into a residential building.

Our concerns mainly rest with the costs of this proposal would not be sustainable. Mr Balcombe has already undertaken a feasibility study on his own proposals and found that Option 1-3 would not be a viable proposition and that the costs of 1.7 million pounds would be needed to complete the project.

We find that the Cottee (an individual developer) proposal which he believes he can convert for under 1.2 million pounds very doubtful that this can be achieved, especially as Mr Balcombe's has undertake and extensive professional feasibility study of his own. Is Mr Cottee saying that Mr Balcombe's experts have over estimated to costs, we don't think so?

As residents of Birch for 25 years, we are more in favor of the demolition of Birch Church and a memorial garden with the outline of the church put in its place with benches so that the people of Birch and surrounding villages or indeed people visiting the church yard can sit and contemplate their thoughts in a peaceful and pleasant surroundings.

Talking to the people of Birch and surrounding villages, we have only found people in favor of demolition and nobody we have spoken to be in favor of the church being developed.

Please take the views of the majority of residents of Birch, Layer Breton, Hardys Green and other surrounding villages into account and finally bring 23 years of uncertainty to an end.

Your Truly

John and Lyn Daniels