

Vestrylink Number 4 - July/August 2019

Vestry held three meetings during July. The first, its regular 3rd Wednesday meeting on 17 July – this time with a devotional focus. On 20 July, Vestry and REDC met together and on 25 July, Vestry met again to make decisions on the REDC report.

Vestry meeting -17 July

At this meeting we considered the faith-based focus of Vestry responsibilities looking at the question of: "How can the gospels help us make good decisions as a church by looking at the people and concerns that were a priority to Jesus." This then becomes a filter through which decisions can be run. For Jesus;

He had a focus on the kingdom of God

A particular concern for those who were "outside", children, women, social outcasts and those disconnected from God (often summed up by the least, the last and the lost)

A call on us to love our brothers and sisters and to go and make disciples.

He had a selfless concern for others

We observed that much of his ministry happened in the ordinary and everyday spaces in life.

Vestry -REDC meeting -20 July

This meeting involved all available members of Vestry and REDC and followed the earlier small group meeting held in June. This meeting helped the two groups to have a better understanding of the issues, clarified some of the report content and paved the way for Vestry to move forward in making decisions.

Vestry meeting - 25 July

The recommendations passed by Vestry in July, reflect the recommendations from the earlier REDC report, plus further information and clarification after the two meetings between REDC and Vestry.

More consideration of available information, resulted in Vestry amending some of its previous thinking about the process. It became clear preliminary geo-technical investigations and initial engineering work would be required before it was feasible to seek any architectural concept design or clarify work-sequencing decisions.

It also became clear a parish Special General Meeting (SGM) would be required at an early stage, to enable the necessary approval of expenditure of \$100,000 for any work to be commenced. This preliminary estimate was greater than the Diocesan Requirement for expenditure without parish approval. (See No 18 Diocesan Properties and Facilities 5 (2)). It is unlikely the full \$100,000 will be required at this time, but Vestry considered it prudent to allow for the up-to \$100,000 estimate to be available.

The key decisions made by Vestry, mostly subject to further action, were;

1. Selection of an engineering/architectural team with a proven working relationship and ecclesiastical work experience, who offered competitive pricing.

2. Holding an early discussion with the architects on their approach to the project.
3. Confirming the accuracy of the preliminary budget estimation of \$100,000. (This sum will cover geo-tech investigation, initial engineering work and early architectural advice.)
4. Discussion between Vestry and the St Alban's Parish Trust regarding dealing with the \$100,000 budget estimated for stage 1 of the work.
5. Arranging a parish SGM as the stage 1 cost estimate exceeds the Diocesan Canon requirements for expenditure without parish approval.
6. Requesting the professional team meet with Vestry and REDC once their initial work is done, to provide interpretation of their findings and identification of the "do-ability" of the project.

Almost all of these decisions have significant follow up actions required. However, this is an exciting time, as the commencement of implementing these decisions gets the redevelopment process underway.

Vestry and REDC will be working together. The confirmation of two members of Vestry to work closely with REDC will be approved at the next Vestry meeting. In addition, REDC has been asked to attend and update each Vestry meeting.

Parishioners will be advised of the date for the SGM, once the information required to hold the meeting is finalised.

Meantime, Vestry will commence work to identify and prioritise the 'future-proofing' options for the redevelopment work.

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for Vestry