

# THE CITY OF DURHAM TRUST

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Phone (0191) 386 2595  
Email: [chair@durhamcity.org](mailto:chair@durhamcity.org)  
Web site: <http://www.DurhamCity.org>

c/o Blakett, Hart & Pratt, LLP  
Aire House  
Mandale Business Park  
Belmont  
Durham, DH1 1TH  
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## **DM/21/02112/FPA: Croxdale Hall Wedding Venue**

Dear Mr Spurgeon

The City of Durham Trust does not object in principle to this application for a change of use of the old chapel at Croxdale Hall. However, it is a Grade 1 listed building within a Conservation Area and Registered Park and Garden; we have some serious concerns that are not addressed by any of the applicant's documentation.

The *Application Form* (Q8) says that no new or altered vehicular access to or from the public highway is intended. Similarly (Q9) says that there is no provision for parking. This begs the obvious question about how people will travel to and from their wedding ceremony. The letter from Croxdale and Hett Parish Council sets out very clearly the problems that might well arise.

The *Application Form* (Q13) also states that "there will be no sewerage discharge as a consequence of this change of use" which implies that there is no provision for toilet facilities. Is the same true of kitchen and changing room facilities? It appears that the chapel will be able to accommodate only the most basic of wedding ceremonies.

The *Application Form* emphasises that "this application does not require any structural works to be carried out to the building itself and as a consequence, this application is for a change of use of the building only" (Q5). It is strange then that the most substantial document submitted by the applicant is the *Preliminary Investigation Report* that is all about the poor state of repair of the chapel. Will it satisfy health and safety requirements in its present condition? It is essential that the fabric of the chapel should not be harmed.

These very practical concerns must be addressed before this application is approved.

Yours sincerely

John Lowe  
Chair, City of Durham Trust