

**Referral under the Mission and Pastoral Measure 2011  
and the Skelmersdale Agreement of 1986: Draft Pastoral  
(Church Buildings Disposal) Scheme  
Proposed demolition of closed Grade II listed Church of  
St Peter and St Paul, Birch, in the Diocese of Chelmsford**

**Notice of 2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Inquiry Meeting**

After carefully considering the request from the Church Commissioners to review the decision to hold a non-statutory public inquiry into the above proposal, the Secretary of State notified the parties on 6 December 2017 that he was satisfied that an inquiry remained the appropriate mode of determining this matter.

In the light of outstanding objections to the Church Commissioners' proposal to demolish the Church of St Peter and St Paul, the Secretary of State has appointed an Inspector, Colin Ball DArch DCons RIBA IHBC, to hold an Inquiry and report to him on the proposal.

Given the length of time since the first pre-inquiry meeting (PIM) held on 28 July 2016, and since there has been a change of Inspector, the appointed Inspector has decided there should be a 2<sup>nd</sup> PIM.

The PIM will open at 11.00 on Wednesday 21 February 2018 at the Players' Lounge, Colchester United Football Club, United Way, Colchester CO4 5UP.

All the parties who have made submissions are asked to attend or to be represented.

The purpose of the PIM is to provide an opportunity for procedural and administrative matters relating to the inquiry to be explained and discussed. There will be no discussion on the merits of the Church Commissioners' proposal or the Cottee scheme, although the Inspector expects confirmation that a detailed scheme with verified, up-to date costings will be submitted.

Members of the public may attend the PIM, or be represented at it, and declare a wish to speak at the Inquiry with an estimation of time it will take for them to present their case. To ensure that the best use is made of inquiry time, the inspector encourages groups of like-minded objectors or supporters to come together and appoint representatives to speak on their behalf.

Should you have any queries about the facilities at the venue please contact Paul Lewis, Pastoral and Closed Churches, Bishoprics and Cathedral Secretary, Church Commissioners, Church House, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3AZ.

The Agenda for the pre-inquiry meeting will follow shortly.

Formal notice of the date, time and venue for the Inquiry will be given in due course.

Sarah Tudor  
Environment and Transport Team  
Room 3 H Hawk Wing  
Temple Quay House  
2 The Square  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN  
or via an email, marked for her attention to:

[environment.appeals@pins.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:environment.appeals@pins.gsi.gov.uk)