



The Reverend Dominic Fenton

The Vicarage  
33 Church St  
Shoreham  
BN43 5DQ

14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

As Vicar of St Mary de Haura, I am delighted to support this planning application. The existing building has served the church and community for many years, but it has now reached a point where its condition and limitations are increasingly difficult to manage. Despite our best efforts to maintain it, the building is in a significant state of dilapidation and disrepair and we are no longer able to provide a safe, accessible or welcoming environment for our community.

The re-development proposal is so designed that the new Church Community space will be located entirely on the ground floor, providing a level of accessibility that is currently absent from the Church Hall. This will enable many more people to make use of the space, including those with mobility impairment, parents with young children, and older members of our community. Greater accessibility will allow the church to host more community activities during the week, increasing footfall in this part of the town and supporting the vitality of the local economy.

The proposals also present significant opportunities to enhance what is a prominent and highly visible site within the town centre. The restoration of the building's exterior to reflect its original architectural character, including the reinstatement of attractive Gothic-style windows, will significantly improve the area's aesthetic quality. This enhancement will contribute positively to the streetscape and create a more welcoming environment for residents, visitors and local businesses alike. For these reasons, I believe the re-development offers clear public benefit, secures the long-term future of the site, and I am delighted to give it my full support.

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The Reverend Dominic Fenton  
Vicar, St Mary de Haura, New Shoreham