



DESIGN STATEMENT

Proposed External Works at Wesleyan Chapel Tarring Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 4ET

1. Introduction

This Design Statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for a package of proposed external works at Wesleyan Chapel, Tarring Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 4ET.

The proposals are illustrated on the accompanying drawing sheets referenced:

DSWESLEYAN/01 through to DS/WESLEYAN/05

The proposals are principally intended to improve the definition, security and day-to-day functionality of the site in preparation for the re-introduction of a similar use to that previously seen (Montessori school).

The proposals aim to provide a covered and weather-protected route to the entrance, introduce a modest garden structure for the nursery use, and provide privacy/security screening, planting, lighting and signage. The main chapel building is otherwise retained without alteration.

2. Existing Site and Building

The submitted drawings identify the site as Wesleyan Chapel on Tarring Road and show the existing chapel building centrally positioned within the site, with boundary walls, gates and areas of hardstanding and external space around it. The site plan also identifies the neighbouring domestic properties (No. 16 and 18)

The existing elevations show a traditional brick-built chapel with a pitched roof and a symmetrical principal south elevation. Existing boundary elements include brick piers/walls and timber fencing.

The proposals have been developed to sit alongside these existing elements rather than to alter the architectural fabric of the chapel and installations are all intended to be made without the need for connection/fixings to the main building.

3. Description of the Proposed Development

The application comprises the following external works, as shown on the submitted drawings:

- New close-board timber fencing, 1.80m high, together with new timber gates to define the site and provide controlled and secured access to the rear/side areas and bin storage.
- A purpose-made external garden structure, identified as a 'Birchtree' on the drawings, measuring approximately 3.00m x 2.40m x 2.30m high. The elevations describe the structure as a temporary-style garden structure for permanent use.
- Secure timber bin storage, positioned within the site as shown on the plan sheets
- A covered timber walkway leading to the principal entrance. Oak-timber construction approximately 1.80m wide and 2.50m high, with fixings to the ground only (not to the building) and a clear acrylic roof.
- Planted hedging contained within timber planting boxes, positioned behind the existing brick boundary wall, with the planting maintained at approximately 1.80m high and screening the view of the proposed fencing.
- Proposed fencing would incorporate security gates as shown, to facilitate the intended use
- An external wall light above the entrance door. The specified example is a Paulmann Capea LED outdoor wall lamp, anthracite aluminium, IP44.
- Two illuminated signs associated with the use of the premises, identified on the drawings as a proposed 'plaza' style sign and a proposed 'pole' sign. Details have been provided as supplied by the signage company to clarify colour/style.
- Minor associated external works required to accommodate the above elements. No changes are proposed to the main building other than the installation of the entrance light.

4. Design Approach

4.1 Scale and Form

The proposals have been deliberately kept as small as possible in scale to minimize visual impact on the site and street-scene.

The garden structure is approximately 3.00m by 2.40m and 2.30m high, while the boundary fencing and hedging would be limited to 1.80m high. The covered walkway is approximately 1.80m wide and 2.50m high. These dimensions provide the required functionality while avoiding an overbearing addition to the existing chapel.

The garden structure and covered walkway are detached or independently supported elements. In particular, the covered walkway would be fixed to the ground rather than to the chapel, helping to maintain the existing building fabric.

4.2 Materials and Appearance

The proposed materials respond to the existing site. Timber fencing, gates, planting boxes and the garden structure provide a simple, natural finish compatible with an established garden setting. The covered walkway is indicated as oak timber construction with a clear acrylic roof, allowing the structure to remain visually lightweight.

The entrance light is a compact wall-mounted fitting in an anthracite finish. Its limited size and location above the entrance are intended to provide functional security illumination without introducing a visually dominant feature.

4.3 Boundary Treatment and Landscape

The boundary strategy combines close-board timber fencing with planted hedging behind the existing brick wall. This provides privacy and security while retaining greenery along the street-facing boundary. The proposed planting boxes are positioned behind the existing wall and the hedging is shown at approximately 1.80m high.

The planting treatment softens the appearance of the boundary and helps integrate the new fencing and gates into the established setting. No wholesale removal or replacement of the existing brick boundary treatment is proposed.

4.4 Signage and Lighting

The drawings identify two signs with lighting, together with a separate entrance light. The signage is positioned on the principal elevation in association with the entrance and is designed as an integral part of the proposed site arrangement. The external wall light is a small, downward-directed wall-mounted fitting above the entrance.

The final illumination would be installed and operated so that light is contained within the site and does not create unnecessary glare or disturbance to neighbouring properties or highway users.

5. Relationship to the Existing Chapel

The design approach is to retain the chapel as the principal architectural element of the site. The submitted elevations explicitly identify that no changes are proposed to the main building other than the installation of the wall light over the entrance.

The new external structures are subordinate in scale and are arranged around the perimeter and entrance areas. The covered walkway is independently supported, avoiding the need for attachment to the chapel fabric. The garden structure is located to the side of the building and is visually separated from the principal elevation by the existing boundary and landscape elements.

6. Access, Security and Function

The proposals improve the practical operation of the site by providing clearly defined gated access, secure bin storage, a covered route to the entrance and a dedicated garden structure. The proposed 1.80m fencing and gates provide a controlled boundary while the hedging provides additional screening.

The covered walkway provides weather protection at the principal entrance. Its clear roof and open-sided form maintain a light visual impact only and avoid creating an enclosed passage.

The drawings indicate access arrangements from Tarring Road by the re-instatement of a previous main opening between two existing brick piers (with lockable gate as shown).

The existing low double gates and section of picket fencing to the east of the site frontage would be screened off as a result of the proposed fencing and planting boxes. These gates were previously used for pedestrian access only with no vehicular access/parking arrangements in place.

7. Residential and Neighbouring Amenity

The principal boundary elements are approximately 1.80m high and the garden structure is approximately 2.30m high at the ridge, but lower nearer the boundary at approx. 2m. Their location within the existing site and the use of boundary planting provide screening and reduce any negative visual impact on/from adjoining areas.

The external lighting is limited to a small entrance fitting and illuminated signage, and would be controlled to avoid unacceptable glare or light spill.

The intended usage of the site would be a very similar continuation of the one previously in place, thereby not changing any previous impact on neighbouring properties. The higher fencing/screening, as well as offering security/privacy would also serve to improve any sound overspill from the site.

8. Heritage and Character

The submitted drawings demonstrate that the proposal has been developed with regard to the existing character of the chapel and its boundary treatment. The main building is retained and no alterations are proposed to its principal architectural form or materials in order to maintain and protect the heritage and character of the building.

9. Planning and Design Considerations

The proposal represents a proportionate package of external works which seeks to balance operational requirements with the appearance and setting of the existing chapel. The key design principles are:

- retain the existing chapel building and its principal architectural character;
- keep new structures modest in scale and subordinate to the existing building;
- use simple, durable and visually compatible timber elements;
- retain and enhance the existing boundary treatment through planting and screening;
- provide safe and clearly defined pedestrian and gated access;
- provide functional lighting while avoiding unnecessary light spill
- locate ancillary structures so that their visual impact is minimised.

10. Conclusion

The proposed external works at Wesleyan Chapel comprise a modest and coordinated set of boundary, access, landscape, lighting, signage and ancillary garden improvements. The submitted drawings demonstrate that the chapel itself is retained in its current form, with no proposed building alterations other than the small entrance light.

The proposals are designed to be subordinate to the existing building, use straightforward materials appropriate to the garden setting, and incorporate planting to soften the boundary treatment. The covered walkway, garden structure, bin stores, fencing, gates, signage and lighting are arranged to support the practical use of the site while limiting their visual impact.

On the basis of the information shown on the submitted drawings, the proposal provides a coherent external design solution which responds to the existing building, boundary treatment and site use.

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11. Drawing Information

This statement has been prepared in support of the following submitted drawings:

- DSWESLEYAN/01 - EXISTING PLAN/LAYOUT
- DSWESLEYAN/02 - PROPOSED PLAN/LAYOUT (with additional images)
- DSWESLEYAN/03 - ELEVATIONS (exstg and proposed)
- DSWESLEYAN/04 - SITE/BLOCK PLAN
- DSWESLEYAN/05 - LOCATION PLAN