

# February 2008

---

## Church Development Project Prayer Update

Please pray urgently for our planning application. Following our Traffic Management report to address the Highways Authority's concern, there is still an objection being raised about access to Ipswich Road from the hall site. The planning officer, John Davies, is not able to override the objection and there is not time to submit the planning application to committee to be decided by Councillors. Colchester Borough has strict deadlines for planning application decisions and is penalized financially by Government for any lapses.

However, in agreement with John Davies, we have withdrawn our application before it has been rejected, only to re-submit it immediately. The planning department will then expedite the consultation process and have promised it will come before the Planning Committee in March. This avoids potentially long delays an appeal process may have. We have been in touch with local councilors and they have pledged support.

This is undoubtedly a frustration yet we were never promised an easy ride! The writer of Hebrews encourages us to persevere and 'Hold unswervingly to the hope we profess' Heb 10 v23.

Please pray for

- Further negotiations with Planning Department and Highways Authority to resolve issues. (John Davies can then make a decision without submitting it to committee)
- John Davies and his team to expedite our re-application
- Our local councilors, Paul Smith, Gerard Oxford and Mayor Ray Gamble who have all voiced support for the project
- For the Development Project team and the extra issues and work raised through this re-application
- For good communication: The Local Residents Association has asked for information to circulate to their membership. An article will appear in the next Connect magazine too. Pray for clarity to explain the current situation in an encouraging and positive way.
- For ongoing work in developing a business plan for the new hall
- The ongoing activities for the project and planning for the Community Fun Day, May Bank Holiday. Pray for the community groups using the hall to support this day by organizing stalls and activities
- For James O'Toole as he progresses the legal transaction to acquire the land from the old vicarage