

Seismic Review Committee AGM Report

The committee members appointed by Vestry are Colin Hickling, Jonathan Screech and Murray McGregor.

We met with Rev. Karl and Alyth in mid-December and discussed the situation as it stands following Vestry's rejection of the single tender for the seismic upgrade works and the *raison d'être* of our committee. Karl left us to decide our scope and desired outcomes, advising that it can be as wide as we feel necessary. He felt a sense of urgency, as well as the responsibility to see St Paul's move forward. We were given a pile of relevant documentation to peruse over Christmas/New Year.

We subsequently decided that the scope of our review is to encompass matters such as reviewing the upgrade standards and design currently envisaged, lowering the standards, considering alternative funding arrangements, abandoning/demolishing, rebuilding and merging with another parish, although the first priority will be to try and achieve a cost effective upgrade that will make the church meet currently accepted seismic standards.

At an early-February meeting we decided that although only one tender was received the price was realistic, so we discussed alternatives such as re-tendering later, removing the bell tower and possibly the front façade, leaving the roof untouched, and the various options noted above. We currently favour and are working to amend the design to reduce costs to a level the church can afford, but have not discarded other options.

We also decided to meet with Ravi Casinader who is a lawyer and a member of St Paul's and with Dave Comparini, our current Project Manager.

At our subsequent 19 February meeting, Ravi and Dave separately attended for parts of the time. Ravi shared with us his informal thoughts on the 34% or 68% NBS design, the Vodafone contract, and our obligations to and expectations from the Diocese and Hutt City Council. Dave updated us on the current situation of the project from his perspective.

At that stage we felt the need to further investigate the possibility of strengthening only to 34% by working solely on the western end of the church and lowering the bell tower. This would be complex, involving insurance issues, the Diocese, HCC and legislation.

In parallel with the above Dave and Colin had arranged to meet with another consulting engineer who, through Diocese contacts had expressed a willingness to provide a second opinion on the engineering design with cost reduction ideas at no initial cost. We should be in a position to outline the outcome of this meeting verbally at the AGM.

We realise that the **website Q&A page**, closed after the church tender-rejection meeting, left several questions unanswered. Most of these have been overtaken by subsequent events and are no longer relevant but if you'd still like an answer to any unanswered questions you asked please contact Murray McGregor. We plan to talk with further positively interested members of our congregation, and could post summaries of our meetings and activities on the church website if this AGM expresses an interest in that.

In conclusion we feel our review is moving well at present. The initiatives being progressed require the input of consultants and builders all of whom are extremely busy at the present time and this effects timelines for design alternatives and costings. As a committee we plan to report back to the church by mid-year through vestry with firm options and recommendations for action.

Colin, Murray and Jon

3 March 2018