

Planning Service
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Monaghan Row
Newry BT35 8DJ

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed planning application for the development of a Civic Hub at the rear of the historic Newry Cathedral. My objections are based on the following grounds:

Visual Impact on the Historic Cathedral Building

The construction of a modern office block in close proximity to the Cathedral, arguably the most historical and architecturally important building in Newry, would adversely affect the visual aesthetics of the area. The cathedral's impact and historical context would inevitably be diminished by a construction that would not be in harmony with the existing architectural style and significance of the site.

Removing the Right of People to Park Proximate to Place of Worship

The proposed development would result in the loss of essential car parking spaces that are currently used by attendees of mass, weddings, and other ceremonies held at the cathedral. This loss of parking would significantly inconvenience those attending these important and often time-sensitive events. This would particularly affect our community's elderly and those with mobility issues, who rely on the ability to park close to the cathedral. It is crucial that access to places of worship, particularly by the most vulnerable members of our community, is protected.

Failure to Meaningfully Consult with the Church and Community

There has been a failure to meaningfully consult and engage with the church administration and the wider community regarding the proposed development. In addition, concerns already raised by the community have been effectively ignored by the council. It is essential that any project of this magnitude incorporates the views and concerns of all stakeholders from the outset to ensure that it serves the community's best interests and preserves our cultural heritage.

I urge the planning department to reconsider the proposed development, taking into account the significant concerns raised by the Cathedral Parish, parishioners and other members of the community. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Print Name

Sign Name