Didsbury Methodist Church

Design and Access Statement
02/07/2008

The Existing Site
Didsbury Methodist Church is situated off Sandhurst Road in Didsbury. The church is situated on the south side of the former Methodist church which was converted some years ago into offices and is owned by Bruntwood Estates Ltd. The main vehicular access is off Sandhurst Road and this leads to a carpark situated on the East side of the Methodist Church. There is also an additional hardstanding area on the south side of the church. The carpark, between Wilmslow Road and the church, for the Open College is private but we understand the church have use of this at evenings and weekends by agreement. At the south-west corner of the site there is a narrow footpath leading to the neighbours footpath and subsequently to Wilmslow road. The existing building is served by a main entrance on the west side of the building, on the same side there is an emergency exit with projecting landing. On the east side of the church there are two entrances with concrete ramps, which while useful do not comply with the current DDA requirements.

The Proposals
The emergency exit on the front elevation is currently accessed via a concrete landing and step, this will be replaced with a DDA compliant ramp consisting of a landing with ramp to one side and step to the other with a two level handrail running the full length. This form allows a suitable access for all people. The two access ramps on the rear (east) elevation are to be replaced with DDA compliant ramps of the same form. The footpath in the southwest of the site will have handrails either side, in particular the handrail on the car park side offers protection as well as assistance. In addition the windows on the front elevation are to be replaced as per the proposal drawing.

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