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Manchester Centre for Buddhist Meditation; Chorlton **Design & Access Statement**

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View of inside the old chapel

1.0 Introduction & proposal

The Centre is situated on High Lane in Chorlton. It is a popular facility run by the Manchester Centre for Buddhist Meditation offering opportunities for meditation, education and Buddhist practice.

It also hosts meetings, events and residential retreats. Currently, it provides a small residential facility on site for overnight stays. It has a member's library and kitchen facilities, together with rooms for Buddhist meditation.

The Centre has been extended in recent years that created modern facilities at the rear of the site. This included ensuite bedroom, kitchen and meeting rooms.

The proposal here is to make better use of part of the old chapel hall, forming a first floor level to offer additional occasional overnight accommodation with a number of small bedrooms with shared bathroom, a bedroom for disabled or wheelchair persons at ground floor, disabled compliant lavatory and shower, with additional meeting space and small brew area.

It is expected that the Centre will hold approximately 5-6 residential weekends and 1-2 residential weeks per year.

2.0 Parking

There are numerous bus routes and other public transport links close by. Although there is no on-site car parking currently offered or intended, there are opportunities for on-street parking outside the Centre and on some of the surrounding streets, particularly around the nearby park. We have never had complaints from our neighbours about parking and do not expect the new residential accommodation will alter this.

A new disabled access ramp is to be formed with slip resistant surface and handrail. New steps will lead up to the entrance.

3.0 New windows

New full height double glazed windows are proposed in the gable wall below the large existing window for increased natural light at ground level.

The existing side timber windows are in poor condition. It is proposed to renew these with new painted hardwood double glazed windows similar to existing but double glazed units and better opening lights for ventilation.

4.0 New doors

Two pairs of part glazed Oak entrance doors wide enough for wheelchairs are proposed, replacing the currently timber boarded doors. The right hand side doors will be for emergency egress.

5.0 Planting

The soft and hard landscaping will be rationalised, with additional planting areas and paving.

6.0 Hours of opening

The Centre is open to the public four nights a week and on Saturday mornings for Beginner's Meditation Classes. There are other activities for members mainly in the evening and at weekends.



Gable elevation as proposed