

PUGIN CHAPEL AT ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA

Location: College of the Holy Child Jesus, St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex

Client: Enplan

Services: Options Appraisal



An options assessment for the future use of the Pugin Chapel

Project Objectives:

- The Grade 2* listed Pugin Chapel is located within the grounds of the College of the Holy Child Jesus in Magdalen Road, St Leonards-on-Sea. Enplan was advising the owners of the six-hectare site on the development opportunities, and was managing the planning and environmental work required.
- It was proposed that the chapel would be fully restored and Enplan commissioned Acorn to undertake a options appraisal into the possible uses for the chapel, and how it could be managed and financially self-sustainable in the longer term.

Our Recommendations:

- Churches and chapels that are no longer used for regular worship have been used for a variety of other activities, and the most common uses remain civic, cultural and community use, residential use or preservation as a monument.
- Following a detailed analysis of a long list of options, an examination of case studies, and extensive consultation with local stakeholders, ownership and management options were considered, and preferred scenarios were developed.
- The final recommendations concluded two options, which could incorporate several uses outlined in the long list. These would maximise the benefits to the local communities and residents, and contribute to the local regeneration plans, and to the development of artistic and cultural programmes within the area.
- A final option of 'doing nothing', leaving control with the residents of the proposed development to generate income from private events or leasing, was identified as a possibility.