



Vision Statement

Version: 1
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1. Introduction

The authors have been tasked with bringing together the thoughts of LFEC to date regarding a vision for its new site, with particular reference to two meetings held on 25 April (LFEC officers and wives) and 27 April (an open meeting of LFEC worshippers). What follows has been drawn together from the recorded notes of those meetings, together with written submissions made at those meetings.

2. Overview

When the various accounts of small group and larger discussions were compared, it became clear that certain key considerations lay at the centre of most people's thoughts. As these were repeated by most, if not all, respondents these form a useful starting point for determining the principles that lie at the heart of LFEC's vision for this site.

In summary, the development should

- be a welcoming venue, open and easy to access
- incorporate a contemporary, light and spacious design
- be a comfortable and safe environment for all visitors to the site
- be a development that represents us as a church, where Jesus is clearly and visibly the centre
- be a home for the church, which, in turn, helps us to make visitors feel at home
- be somewhere that is open all the time (or as much as possible)
- be a quality development that grows from the scale of the existing buildings and conveys our big vision of God and his work
- be an environmentally friendly and sensitive development which demonstrates our commitment to safeguarding the physical environment and resources God has provided

3. User Definitions

In describing how the site might be used, all respondents made reference to the term 'community'. Under analysis, this term appears to describe three distinct 'communities' who would each be potential users of the new development and whose needs it should therefore seek to meet:

1. The Church Community. This refers to the members and worshippers/associates of LFEC both now and in the future.
2. The Town Community. This refers to the non-Christian residents of the area, both the immediate streets surrounding the site as well as the wider town and borough.
3. The Christian Community. This is a term referring to organisations rather than people, such as other local churches, wider area churches, and Christian organisations both local and national.

Using these definitions, the following pages contain details of activities that the development either could or should incorporate if it is to cater for the needs of these communities.

3.1 The Church Community

As a church, LFEC currently engages in the following activities, all of which would need to take place in any new development:

- Sunday worship, morning and evening
- Pre-service prayer
- Pre/after-service refreshments
- Sunday Club
- Coffee Morning
- Toddlers
- Prayer meeting / Bible Study / Missionary meetings
- Men's Bible study
- Women's Bible study
- Friday Club
- Youth Club
- Holiday Bible Club
- Quiz nights
- Various occasional fellowship events
- Various occasional outreach events

To cater for these, as well as for many of the other anticipated activities in **3.2** and **3.3** below, the following facilities were identified:

- a. Main Auditorium:
 - 300 seats
 - Large front platform area to include speaker's podium and secondary podium/s (all with mic provision), accessible baptistery, screens, music/instruments area, rooms off for prayer/counselling
 - Audio/visual system and broadcasting/livestreaming facilities
 - Lighting
 - Refreshments space/facilities
 - Toilet/cloakroom facilities
- b. Other facilities:
 - Smaller auditorium (for immediate use – see **5. Timeline** below) and small group use
 - Good catering facilities
 - Counselling space
 - Crèche
 - Good storage
 - Social Media production suite
 - Youth Church
 - Library

3.2 The Town Community

Connecting to the town community seemed to centre upon two main areas, socio-economic need and leisure interest. Below are suggestions made for projects LFEC could involve itself with, either by itself or in conjunction with partner organisations.

- a. Socio-economic need
 - C.A.P. centre
 - Foodbank
 - Community clothes rail
 - Soup kitchen
 - Warm hub
 - Adult literacy classes
 - Cancer support groups
 - Blood donor van
 - Addiction therapies / help groups
 - Nappy bank
 - School meals outside of term time
 - Emergency accommodation/hygiene facility (e.g. shower block)
 - Local employment (coffee shop employees, building maintenance)

- b. Leisure interest
 - Lunch Club
 - Literary group
 - Digital education (e.g. internet security)
 - Craft clubs
 - Repair club
 - Cooking classes
 - Language classes
 - Drama group
 - Slimming groups
 - Post-natal classes
 - Parenting classes
 - Gaming club
 - Sports/Fitness clubs
 - Ballet classes

- c. Other areas mentioned:
 - Café culture coffee shop
 - Youth club and youth activities (outdoors)
 - School liaison, e.g. large events such as Carol Services, Prize-giving events

Each of these items is mentioned with the intention of finding a point of contact with the wider population of Llanelli and encouraging them to enter and feel comfortable both using our building and interacting with us as Christians.

3.3 The Christian Community

As a resource, the development could be put to use in the following ways by the wider Christian church:

- Combined churches worship and outreach
- Catering and dining facilities
- Conferences, seminars, lectures, events, concerts (and a particular reference here to the local Ffwrnes theatre and its aversion to booking 'religious' events, a need LFEC could now fulfil)
- Counselling space / well-being centre
- 'Hot-desk' offices for organisations offering some of the socio-economic needs-based services in **3.2**)
- Accommodation for youth camps, house parties etc.
- Accommodation/flat/holiday space – self-contained for pastoral refreshment etc.

In offering a venue suitable for Christian Community activities it was mentioned that this venue could become a focal point for churches to the west of Llanelli who may feel remote from the existing activity 'hubs' of Cardiff and Newport.

4. Structural comments

In addition to the points listed above there were other things mentioned by respondents that related more to the physical building itself that its use:

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| - Outdoor activity area | - Roof garden |
| - Garden | - Sedum roof |
| - Elevator | - Pavilion style structure (main auditorium) |
| - Books and gift shop | - Living wall |
| - Art Gallery | |
| - Catering facilities | |
| - Prominent signage | |

One final suggestion was that LFEC could use the facility to set up a Christian school.

5. Timeline

This Vision Statement seeks to explore the use to which the eventual development might be put and, in doing so, engages with a vision of the church that is (potentially) both full and final. However, in their responses some have noted the financial constraints under which LFEC will be working, and also the perceived need by some to make use of the existing facility as best we can in order to accommodate our already growing work. Although this wasn't a question that was posed, the issue of the existing facility did come up, with one group expressing a desire to completely demolish the site and start again, while others sought to make use of what was already there, especially the three-storey building. One suggestion is that a phased development could be considered, making use of the 3-storey building while the whole site development is planned and executed. This would also allow LFEC the chance both to grow into its new surroundings and better judge how it can best serve the needs of those it seeks to engage with, while also raising funds to complete the job properly.

A phased development might consider adapting the second-floor as an auditorium, complete with lift, toilets and tea/coffee facilities as we currently have, before completing a main auditorium in the area where the cells are currently located.