

Area Committee – Neighbourhood CIL Funding Application Form

Title	
Raised by (Councillor):	Whysall
Ward:	High Barnet
Member Request:	St John the Baptist Church Organ
Funding Requested (£):	
<p>In consultation with (e.g. named Officer):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is within the parameters outlined in CIL statutory and regulatory definitions • Falls within the CIL Funding Priorities agreed by the relevant Area Committee • Links to priorities in any existing Council policy or strategy and/or whether any insight and intelligence may support the application • The scheme has considered any potential impact on the Council's Strategic portfolio including those considered for strategic CIL funding • The scheme has no ongoing incremental revenue costs to the Council • That the scheme budget is forecast accurately • That the scheme deliverability has been assessed to ensure it can be resourced and successfully implemented • That the scheme outcomes and benefits have been assessed including benefits for the wider community and/or 	<p>St John's is the heart of Chipping Barnet town, the chapel has existed in Chipping Barnet Town since approximately the 1250s.</p> <p>As the Church is the heart of the town, the organ is the heart of the Church.</p> <p>The Church Organ needs urgent and major refurbishment to safeguard it for the future, as many components of the organ are beginning to fail.</p> <p>The Church have sought several quotes, some nearing £250,000.0. At the advice of the Diocese of St. Albans, they engaged organ Specialist Paul Hale, who after a site visit and an extensive report has advised them on the work required and the quotes that had been obtained. Paul Hale has advised on</p>

<p>including those with protected characteristics under the Equalities Act 2010 And Area Lead Officer (NAME), on (DATE):</p>	<p>the organs at Manchester and Newcastle Cathedrals. At his advice Jonathan Wallace of Henry Groves & Son was asked to provide a fourth quote which was for £132,000.00 plus VAT. Paul Hale also advised on this quote, against the others provided, all of which had seen the report which Paul wrote. On Paul Hale's advice, the Church Council prefers the quote of Henry Groves & Son.</p> <p>The Church has raised funds by selling historic assets in the form of property. This has helped to liquidise assets, and was undertaken following financial advice from Lonsdale. There are other major works needed to the church, particularly upcoming repair works for outer church masonry, and works on the western doors of the church. The proceeds from the sale of assets must at once pay for required work, and also provide regular income through reinvestment. The church has annual outgoings which require a substantial reinvestment and annual drawdown of interest, to provide for the lost income of previously owned assets, if it is to remain financially stable.</p> <p>The organ is amongst the most significant aspects of St. John the Baptist Church. It was constructed by William Hill in 1884. It is used extremely regularly by the worshipping community at St. John the Baptist at services throughout every week of the year.</p> <p>However, it is more importantly a community asset, a central element of one of Barnet's most historic buildings, and a key part of innumerable community and civic functions. Civic events</p>
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include the large Barnet Remembrance Sunday event, the Community Carol Services at Barnet Christmas Fayre, and community services and events at Christmas and Easter.

Many local schools use the organ as an irreplaceable element of their school services, coming to use the church partly for use of the Organ. Schools which hold such services include Queen Elizabeth's Boys, Queen Elizabeth's Girls, Underhill, Lyonsdown, Foulds, St. Catherine's, Summerside Primary, and Haberdashers Girls.

The organ is also used on a weekly basis by local students who are learning to play the organ, and who would not have the opportunity to learn otherwise. The Church has also created 2 organ scholarships with Queen Elizabeth's Boys, which began in January. They aim to create a further 2 scholarships with Queen Elizabeth's Girls, and discussions about this project are underway. These scholarships will be held annually and renewed for as long as the church and schools are willing and able to continue. It is particularly exciting to be creating the opportunity to welcome female students to learn the organ, as women are hugely underrepresented in the classical music world – especially as organists.

The Church is also founding choral scholarships from 2024 - the desire is to create 8 scholarship places for young people to get a musical education – the hope is to particularly encourage

underrepresented grounds in the classical world including BAME backgrounds.

The Church holds regular classical concerts open to the community which bring our community together. Amongst these is the major performance of J.S Bach's St. John's Passion by the UK-Japan Choir, supported by the Japanese Embassy in the UK, which takes place in on the 24th March 2024. This is likely to become an annual event, and the organ is essential to these sorts of performances. The Church also hosts the annual High Barnet Chamber Music Festival. The church is seeking to create more opportunities for musical concerts, especially including the organ, but as Joshua Balance (Director of the High Barnet Chamber Music Festival) attests in his attached letter, the proposed organ works are essential for these to continue.

Regular musical events help combat loneliness in our community especially amongst the elderly – given the number of Alms Houses and retirement properties in High Barnet ward this is a particular concern. Musical events are also offered to local care and nursing homes, such as Barnet Grange Nursing home, and provide an important aspect of holistic care for the residents who attend. Musical events are well attended Community events and attract musicians from across the world to play in the unique space that is St John's.

The Church has also fundraised to create the new post of Director of Music and Musical Mission. The postholder will have the purview of creating more opportunities for local singers and musicians, particularly young people, and particularly from underrepresented groups in classical music, including women and members of the BAME community. The postholder will help to establish the first choir to include women in the church in 150 years, and will provide a range of free services expanding musical education and support for local schools and young people's organisations. A key part of this post will be use of the organ as a teaching tool, as well as to allow a variety of music in the church. There are few, if any, places in Barnet which have an instrument of the size and quality of the Hill Organ at St. John the Baptist, and so it is uniquely situated to offer this important support, which has been so warmly welcomed by local schools after much discussion with the church.

Repairing an organ is not just a once in a generation endeavour but one in many generations – further repairs will not be required for 50-70 years, as attested to by Paul Hale.

The Council is currently establishing a Cultural Strategy for Barnet – and our faith centres are key to the culture of our borough. In Chipping Barnet St John's is a key cultural hub and refurbishing the organ ensures that not only will the spiritual work of the Church be able to continue for many years to come but it can remain the heart of our town.

<p>Any additional information (please list any documents here to be published with the agenda, or circulated to the Committee):</p>	<p>Attached are letters of support Martin Russell, Deputy Lieutenant and Joshua Balance, Artistic Director of the High Barnet Chamber Music Festival.</p> <p>Copies of the four quotes obtained</p>