

Building for the Future

April 2024 Update



Planning application submitted!

In our last update we shared how we had agreed to purchase this building for our church.

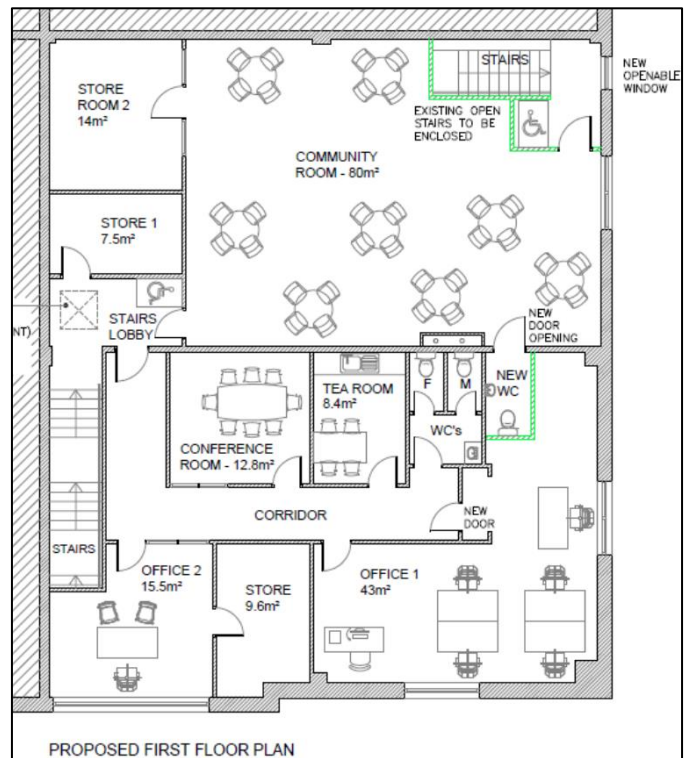
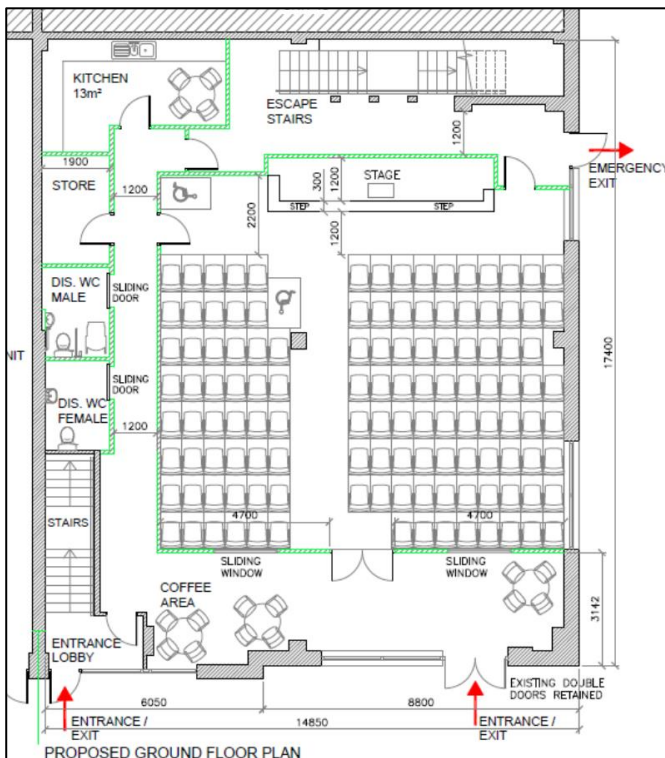
Since then, we have been busy getting plans drawn up by our architect. We are pleased to share that a planning application for change of use and layout changes was submitted to Mayo County Council this month.

Praise God for how things are moving along.

In March we had a fundraiser event, where one of our families put on a Peter Rabbit play. We had a great night with lots of visitors and raised €200.

Plans

Our proposed ground floor and first floor plans are shown below



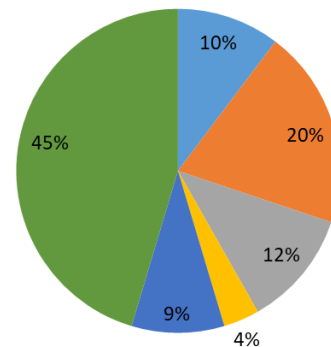
Downstairs, we plan to have a main meeting room, café area, toilets and kitchen. Upstairs we will have a youth / kids hall, storage, and self-contained office space that can be rented out.

Budget update

We agreed a sale price of €285,000 and we estimate that renovation works will cost around €100,000. Therefore our total scheme budget is €400,000.

To date we have raised €220,400 from various sources as shown on the chart.

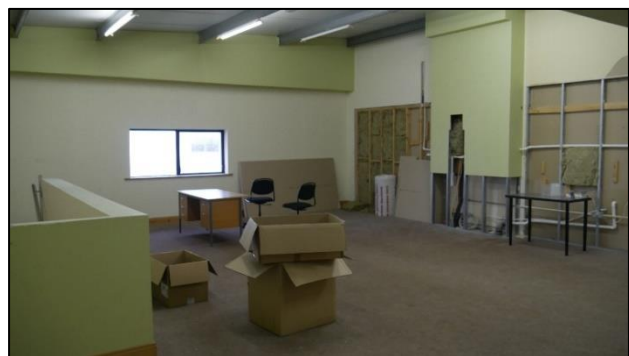
This includes a loan of €100,000 from a community finance organisation in Ireland. We anticipate that our savings from paying rent, and the rental income from the office space will cover the loan repayments.



■ Internal Donations ■ External: Individuals
■ External: Charitable Trusts ■ External: Churches
■ Pledges ■ Loan

We have also written to numerous trusts and churches to request assistance.

If you or your church would consider pledging to support this project, please do get in touch. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed so far.



Next steps

In Ireland there is an 8-week period for the Council to make their initial decision, followed by a 4-week appeals period. Therefore, we should have a planning decision by July. Please pray that the decision will be favourable.

As we progress through the planning system, we are trusting God to provide the outstanding finance to enable us to purchase the property promptly after a planning decision is made.

In the meantime we will begin making preparations for the internal building works needed after the building is purchased. This will involve getting additional architectural drawings, a Building Control application, and appointing an engineer to certify the works. We will need to prioritise the legally required fire and disabled access works, as these must be completed before we can occupy the building.

If you would be interested in helping us with any practical work when we reach that stage, we would love to hear from you.