

Chapel plan passed on by District Council

PLANS for the conversion of a disused chapel, to a repair garage, at Winnothdale, near Tean, were passed by District Councillors last week, despite fears by some members of the Development Control Committee that such permission would lead to dangerous highway conditions and loss of visual amenity.

But local Councillor Don Pearce, who lives in the area convinced his colleagues that there were "no highway difficulties and local people are not against it".

Although recommended for refusal, Cllrs. learnt that the conversion would involve work by the applicant only, and that he would only be working on one car at a time.

However, some councillors and letters from two residents feared that if the application was given the go-ahead, the whole situation would escalate and spoil the area. Cllr Joe Lowe commented that "this is an area of natural beauty. If this type of thing starts opening up in the countryside then it can be very detrimental".

Two neighbours also supported the application which was eventually passed by an 8-4 vote, under tight restrictions, for a twelve month temporary period.