

Fresh plans lodged to turn church into home

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St David's Church, Picton Terrace, Carmarthen.

Picture: Peter Bolter

FRESH plans have been lodged to transform Carmarthen's St David's Church into a home.

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The project has been dogged by controversy over the past six years with some town leaders calling for more action to save the church from ruin.

This is despite restoration work by the owner - property developer Aaron Hill.

He has carried out repairs to make it safe since he bought it from the Church in Wales (CIW) in 2011 for £1, which was followed by a major investment in urgent works on the roof to make the building safe.

The church was damaged in a storm in 2003 and repair costs spiralled for CIW.

He has been caught up in red tape with Carmarthenshire Council and has already seen plans turned down once due to them not fitting the listed nature of the build-

ing.

Last autumn Mr Hill, pictured right, said he was at his "wits' end" after the council claimed the only application they were considering for the building on Picton Terrace was a listed building consent and not a planning application for a change of use - as Mr Hill believed.

Despite wanting the building to be put back in use, in October Mr Hill was considering walking away from the scheme but conceded planning permission for a change of use may be needed by any estate agent before being put on the market.

It is unclear whether Mr Hill's latest application seeking the change of use permission is because he is committed to the project or because he intends to sell it.

Efforts have been made by the Journal to contact



Mr Hill over the new application that he has lodged and his long-term intentions for the church.

Carmarthenshire Council's development management manager, Julian Edwards, said: "Listed building consent was

approved last year for works to enable the conversion of the church to a dwelling following amendments being made to the scheme."

He added: "A full planning application was registered earlier this

month to convert the church for a dwelling.

"This application is currently in the consultation period and will be determined in due course."

It will be discussed by the council's planning committee soon.