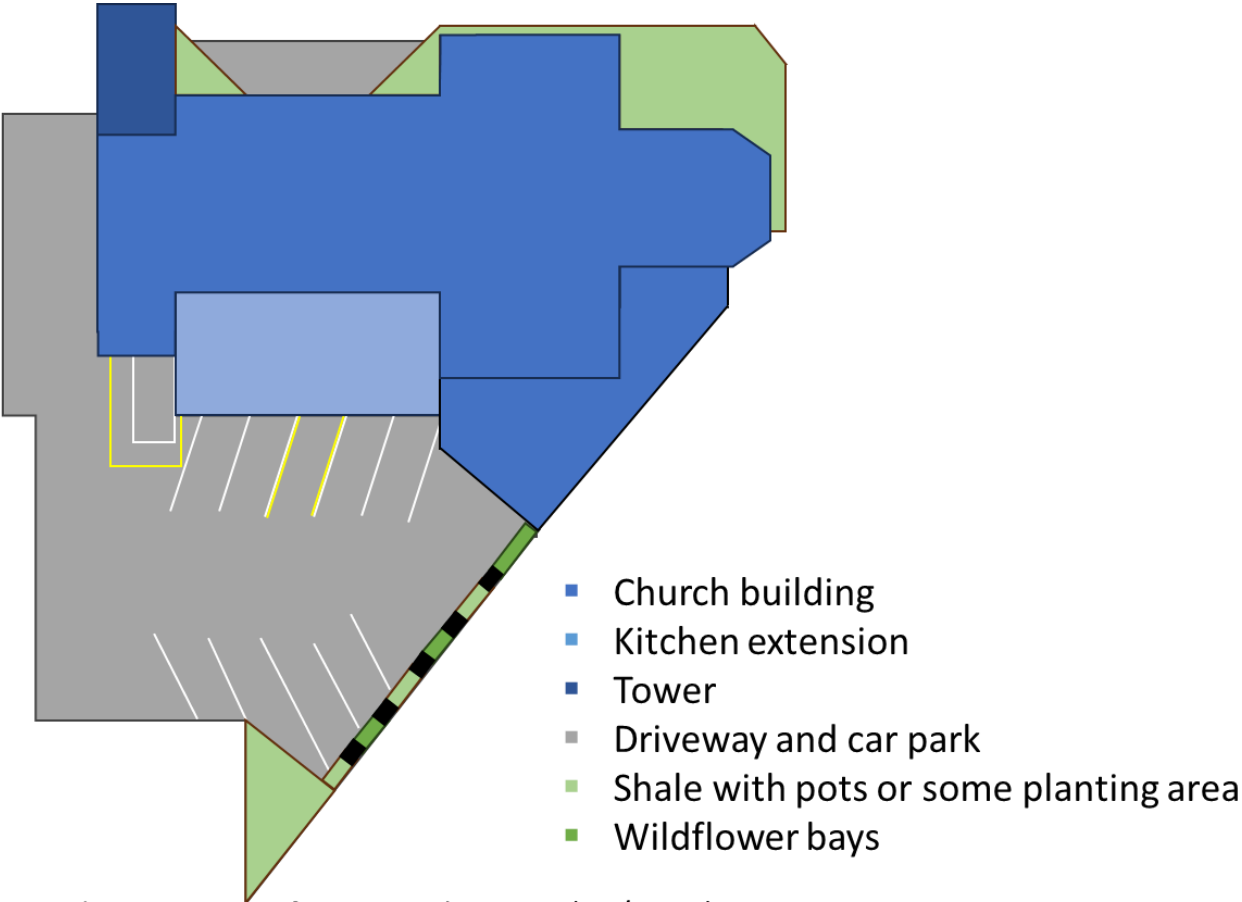


Management plan for New Road Methodist Church Centre grounds



Based on an image from Google Maps (07/2023).
Areas are only indicative and may not be to scale.

Reasoning

The church grounds need to be maintained in a way that befits the beauty of the church. However, the spaces we have can be valuable habitats for a variety of wildlife living. As Christians, we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to care for our spaces in ways that will respect the heritage but also benefit wildlife. This management plan helps give a framework to communicate the reasons for what is happening in the church grounds.

Management Plan

1. Trees:

There are currently no trees on the church grounds. Trees would spread roots damaging the car park area and potentially the building itself. Therefore, planting trees is not practical and shall not occur on the grounds.

2. Ivy:

Ivy provides a valuable source of food for insects late in the season as well as nest sites. It will be left to grow around the site where it is not damaging structures. However, it shall be removed from the space outside the front of the building if it is growing up the walls as this may cause damage to the buildings structure.

3. Drain on Car Park:

This fills with dirt and other materials. This needs clearing out regularly to prevent water from pooling on the car park. This is for the safety of our congregation.

4. Prayer/Contemplation Area

The shale triangular area has been converted into a prayer/contemplation area. Rocks with quotes from scripture and biblical imagery are placed surrounding the pots in that space. There is a plastic bench which was donated providing members of our congregation and the public a space to sit. There is also a wooden tree, which can be decorated at appropriate times of the year (e.g. Christmas and Easter). These additions have seemed popular.

5. Wildflower Bays

There are three bays which have been sown with a mix of seeds for different plants all of which are native and wild. The pots in the shale area have also been sown with similar seeds. These will be cut back in the late October meaning they should come back stronger in the following year. This will be continued until the bays and pots have a full cover.

6. Planting areas at the front of the building

Outside the church, there is a designated planting area featuring spacious bushes surrounded by smaller flowering plants. To enhance the visual charm and discourage littering, our proposed strategy involves introducing new native flowering plants that will effectively fill the area.

7. Grass Areas

There are no grass areas and whilst the bays are becoming populated, at no point will it become a grass-based area. This is due to grassy areas having less biodiversity than the biodiversity of the mixtures currently held in the bays.

8. Use of chemicals

No pesticides or herbicides shall be used on the church grounds. The bays will have plants that are commonly deemed weeds in them because these are highly nutritious to pollinators. These harmful chemicals will be avoided as much as possible on all church grounds but will never be used near to the bays.

Regular Review and Monitoring:

Periodically review and evaluate the progress of the environmental management plan, making necessary adjustments and improvements based on feedback, monitoring data, and changing circumstances.

By implementing this environmental management plan, New Road Methodist Church Centre can contribute to the preservation of heritage, conservation of the natural environment, and engagement of the local community, fostering a sustainable and environmentally conscious approach to land management.