

Dear Friends,

It seems that the waiting game is almost over for the Nenagh Baptist Group shop front project. The Town Council has approved our request to change the use of this property from office only to a church meeting space. This approval can be challenged for 30 days by any interested party meaning until April 10th. We've been advised that objections at this stage seldom happen but we are trying to be prudent all the same. In order to keep a low profile we have chosen not to put up any exterior signs or hold any group meetings on the premises until after April 10th (our hope is to hold our first official service on Easter Sunday). Interior work is going on however as chairs, a sound system, shelving and accessories are starting to arrive. Looking back over four months of waiting which has tested our patience, we can now see that this time was very profitable.

- We have had a lot of extra contact with the property owner, the architect who submitted our planning request and with city officials. As tedious as all this paperwork has been, it has allowed us to build more key relationships in the town. The landlord has become a friend and was almost as excited as we were when the approval finally came.
- The extra weeks have given us a lot of time to think about the set up of the space and to research sources for furnishings. As those in the fellowship make suggestions and haggle over prices, the excitement and anticipation build. The arrival of fifty chairs last week sent the phone texts flying with the thrill of it all.
- There are churches in Ireland (both in the North and in the Republic) that have taken a keen interest in what is happening here. Our slowed pace in getting established has allowed them time to think through how they can help. It has been great to hear of their concern! Offers of financial help, work teams, and technical support have come in from these groups, helping to sustain us.
- The delay has also allowed further consideration of how we can best take advantage of this space. We want to open it up to some community projects but have realized that we need to be wise in how this is done. Some of our extra time has been put into considering policy details such as insurance, rules of property use, and time management.

In retrospect the wait has been very good, but we should have realized that it would be because that is how God works.

Dean & Julia Langley
ABWE - Ireland

Ezekiel 34:26
www.nenaghbaptistgroup.ie

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."
(David Robertson)