

# Bideford St church plan

Proposals for a \$60,000 to \$70,000 combined Anglican - Presbyterian Church in Bideford St were outlined at a sitting of the New Plymouth City Council's town planning committee yesterday afternoon.

The Presbyterian Church Property Trustees, New Plymouth, applied for an order permitting an acre of Bideford St land to be used for a church, Christian education and related church social and community uses, and the use by the public for recreational, cultural, sporting and community activities.

The trustees proposed that the council's consent to the second use should be subject to the council's right to review its consent at any time or from time to time.

For the trustees, Mr D. Christian said the purpose of the application was to enable a combined church to be built on land owned by the Presbyterian Church. The congregation of St. Michael's Anglican Church worshipped at present in a substandard building, which was more than 60 years old and inadequate for large gatherings. The history of St. Margaret's Presbyterian Church was somewhat similar.

"They have on their property two church halls, both

inadequate," said Mr Christian.

However, there was a large block of flat land, which was ideally suited for a new church.

It would be bad stewardship to have two new churches in the area, particularly with the prospect of possible church union, and finance would be a problem, said Mr Christian.

Mr Robert Anderson, farmer and session clerk of St. Margaret's Church, and Mr F. J. Bowering, architect of the proposed church, gave evidence.

Mr Bowering said no house in the area would be closer than 100ft from the proposed church, which would have a concrete floor, concrete block walls and a concrete tiled roof. It was intended to landscape the site and tarseal the 44-car parking area. The building would comprise a main church area, a lounge-foyer, kitchen facilities, a small creche, office and vestry-study.

For the objectors, Mr H. B. O'Connor and Mr and Mrs R. S. Haybittle, Mr F. R. Mori, said they were concerned with the proposed use by the public for sporting, community, recreational and cultural purposes. These might be noisy.