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SOON to disappear under the bulldozers is the 135-year-old Wesleyan Chapel at Wherwell and the land is to become part of an interesting new venture by Test Valley Council.

The chapel, built in 1846 in Wherwell's main High Street, is to form car parking space for a row of cottages behind it, which Test Valley is doing up and offering for sale to people on its housing lists.

The idea is an extension of the schemes recently carried out in Artists Way, Andover. There the first of 52 houses being built for sale were visited by Housing Minister John Stanley two weeks ago, and he expressed high praise to the council for what it has done there. The houses found a

Chapel makes way for parking

ready market of buyers — at considerably less than normal house prices in Andover — and have now all been earmarked or sold.

With the success of that scheme in the bag, Test Valley has now turned to one of the most picturesque villages in its area, for a follow-up.

Eight cottages in Chapel Row, which were bought by the old Andover Parish Council in 1953, and turned into council houses, are to be refurbished. Most of them have been empty for

some years, and need bringing up to standard.

The scheme has already been approved in principle and the housing committee is likely to be asked to sanction the contract for improvement at its next meeting.

Meanwhile all the people in the Wherwell and Chilbolton areas who are on the council's waiting lists for houses have been asked if they would be interested in buying one of these cottages.

They are likely to cost much less than you have to pay for a private house in Wherwell.



Wherwell's Wesleyan Chapel, due to be demolished to make way for a car park.