



The vicarage at St Mary's was moved forward so it can be renovated.

HELEN HARVEY/STUFF

## Historic vicarage moves forward into its future

The vicarage at Taranaki Cathedral in New Plymouth has been relocated despite neighbours taking legal action against the move.

Built in 1899 the vicarage is being moved forward about 20 metres where it will be renovated and a car park built behind it.

Two neighbours have started legal action against the New Plymouth District Council's handling of the resource consent application to move and renovate the building.

But, as the challenge is against the council, and the cathedral project team have all the necessary consents, it went ahead with the move as planned yesterday.

Neighbour Patrick Landrigan, who isn't involved in the legal challenge, called on the cathedral project team to call an immediate halt to the work moving the vicarage.

"So as they can have time to reflect on and reconsider the project and make the proper consultations and considerations that

should have been done in the first place".

Moving and restoring the vicarage is the first stage of a \$15m redevelopment project that will include earthquake strengthening the cathedral and a new contemporary building, Te Whare Hononga (the house that binds).

Positioned behind two trucks the vicarage was moved almost to the front fence of the property on Vivian St.

It will remain there while the

slight hill behind it is flattened. The building will then be moved back to its new position about 20 metres in front of where it is has stood for the past 121 years.

More than 50 people gathered to watch the initial move forward, which took about 40 minutes.

Previously a home, after the renovations the bottom floor will be used for functions and events and the upper storey for education.

Rene Duncan was driving past when she saw the building was up

on the truck, so went home to get her husband Alistair who was christened at the Cathedral, Rene Duncan said.

It's wonderful the building was being preserved, she said. "So many historic buildings are being demolished in this country."

The cathedral should obviously be saved, but it is "brilliant" that effort has been taken to keep the vicarage, Duncan said.