

FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel **(to be confirmed at the next meeting)**

Date: Wednesday, 28 November 2018

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley (Chairman)

Councillor Mrs L E Clubley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs S M Bayford, S Dugan, M J Ford, JP and Mrs K K Trott

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Councillor J M Englefield.

2. MINUTES

It was AGREED that the Minutes of the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel held on the 07 November 2018 be signed and confirmed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made at this meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

In accordance with the Standing Orders and the Council's code of Conduct for Members, Councillor Ford declared and non-pecuniary interest for Item 6(1) as he is on the Management Committee for St Mary's Church, Hook with Warsash.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations received at this meeting.

6. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

The Panel considered the Executive items of business which fall under the remit of the Leisure and Community Portfolio, including individual Executive Member decisions, that have taken place since the last meeting of the Scrutiny Panel on the 07 November 2018.

The Panel considered the decision shown at item 6(1).

RESOLVED that the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel considered the items of Executive Business.

(1) Community Fund Application - St Mary's Church, Hook with Warsash

Councillor Ford declared and non-pecuniary interest for Item 6(1) as he is on the Management Committee for St Mary's Church, Hook with Warsash.

No comments were received.

7. FERNEHAM HALL VISION REVIEW

The Panel received a presentation from the Customer Engagement Manager, which provided Members with a summary of the recent consultation results and findings. The presentation is appended to these Minutes.

Members then considered the report by the Head of Leisure and Corporate Services which set out the details of the proposed changes to the Ferneham Hall Vision: -

- Increase the auditorium to around 800 seats.
- Emphasise flexibility of second performance space.
- Replace 'dance studio' with 'flexible' studio space.

An in-depth question and answer session took place between Members and Officers to better understand reasons for the proposed changes to the 'Vision: Fareham's New Entertainment Venue' document.

RESOLVED that the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel considered the Ferneham Hall Vision Review report and support the proposed update to the 'Vision: Fareham's New Entertainment Venue' document.

8. LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

The Chairman addressed the Panel to ask them to consider a tabled document for this item. A draft scoping report has been prepared by Officers to extend an invitation to Westbury Manor Museum. The Museum was identified by Members at the previous meeting as a key priority of the Panel.

Members, overall were happy with the report but have asked for Officers to look to focus the questions around marketing and remove the 6th bullet point from the report.

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendments put forward by Members, the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel approve the scoping report.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm
and ended at 3.00 pm).

New Entertainment Venue

Ferneham Hall
28 November 2018

Vision Consultation

- 17 August – 15 October:
 - Residents' survey
 - Static and pop-up exhibitions
 - Attended shows
 - Interviews with regular hirers
 - Industry survey
 - Discussions with theatre managers

Page 6

Why do we need a new venue?

After nearly 40 years of service the fabric of Ferneham Hall is looking tired, dated and in need of modernisation.

The Council has maintained the building to a good standard, with investment in the roof and boilers during the last 5 years. It is clear, however, that the layout and design of the building is no longer fit for purpose.



To find out more, please read the [Ferneham Hall Vision](#) (3 MB)

How to have your say

Static exhibitions are on display in Ferneham Hall and Fareham Shopping Centre (by Debenhams) until October. A series of pop up events will take place across the Borough, where residents will have the chance to find out more about the vision, ask questions and comment on our plans.

- Locks Heath Shopping Village, Locks Heath, Wednesday 22 August 2018 12-2pm
- Ferneham Hall, Fareham, Tuesday 4 September 2018 4-7pm
- Fareham Shopping Centre, Fareham, Tuesday 18 September 2018 12-2pm
- Portchester Village Centre, Portchester, Wednesday 19 September 2018 9am-12pm

You can also have your say by taking part in an online survey [here](#).



Resident Results

- 338 responses
- Most support vision proposals
- Mixed reaction to reduced auditorium size

- Want to see
- More welcoming building
 - More comfortable seating
 - More variety in shows/bigger names
 - **Better promotion**
 - Café with simple meals

Page 7



Regular hirers feedback

- 14 surveys and 6 face-to-face discussions
- General support for proposals in Vision
- Mixed feedback on auditorium size
- Want to see:
 - Better acoustics
 - More wing space
 - Better promotion
 - Better administration



Industry Experts

- Main auditorium:
 - 750-850 seats attract better quality shows
 - Fly tower is industry standard
 - Fixed seating preferred
 - Need large backstage
 - Circle in theatre

Page 9



Industry Experts

- Smaller auditorium:
 - Hard to programme for
 - Unlikely to make money
 - Some local groups may use it but not all
- Could be adaptable space for conferences with flat seating
- Dance studio
 - Better as general studio
 - Could double up as a smaller auditorium with bleacher seating

Page 10



Industry Experts

- Food and Beverage:
 - Can vary food offering
 - Open from 10am to 11pm
- Annual subsidy
 - Realistic to reduce subsidy to £100,000
 - Take 5 years to achieve

Page 11



Potential Operators

- Main auditorium:
 - 400-500 ok but would need higher subsidy
 - 750-850 would attract more shows
 - Fly tower would attract more shows
 - Most prefer fixed seating
 - Some wanted mixed to allow stage extensions

Page 12



Potential Operators

- Smaller auditorium:
 - Comedy
 - Films and live theatre screenings
 - Smaller audience shows

Dance Studio

- Better as general studio
- Dance and exercise
- Community groups e.g. Brownies etc
- Daytime classes

Page 13



Potential Operators

- Food and Beverage:
 - Simple food e.g. pizza, sandwiches, cakes etc. that bar and kitchen staff can prepare to keep costs down
 - Help drive footfall
 - Some may bring in chain e.g. Costa



Potential Operators

- Subsidy:
 - Reduce it in 3-5 years
 - Not all sure they can break even
 - Some say can break even in 5 years
 - May need subsidy for specific projects

Page 15



Proposed Vision Changes

- Increase auditorium to around 800 seats
- Emphasise flexibility of second performance space
- Replace 'dance studio' with 'flexible studio space'



**A VISION:
FAREHAM'S NEW
ENTERTAINMENT
VENUE**

Next Steps

- Detailed work on main auditorium including feasibility of fly tower
- Continued discussion with potential operators
- Further engagement with residents, potential operators and wider industry
- Commission client agent

Minute Item 8

Tabled Item 8

LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SCRUTINY PANEL - SCOPING REPORT

Councillor requesting item: Councillor Mrs Hockley and Cllr Ford

Issue	The footfall and vibrancy of Westbury Manor Museum
Background	<p>Westbury Manor Museum re-opened in Summer 2017 following a £665,000 project to transform the facility into a vibrant and unique cultural destination in the heart of Fareham town centre.</p> <p>The museum is managed and operated by Hampshire Cultural Trust who have a ten-year management agreement with the Council.</p>
Objective & Description	<p>The purpose of inviting Hampshire Cultural Trust to a future meeting of the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel is to provide an overview on how the Museum is performing since it reopened.</p> <p>In particular the Panel would like to understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the Museum performing against its visitor targets? • What is the Trust doing to help increase footfall figures? • How is the café and shop performing against its targets? • Is the café offering compatible with the audience the Trust is trying to attract to the museum? • How are the Trust marketing the two studio spaces that are available to rent? • How is the museum and garden being marketed to create a greater awareness of what it has to offer to – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Families with children up to 11 years old, including under 5's - Older people from a wider range of socio-economic groups - Local people living within 6 miles of Fareham - People visiting friends and relatives - People from the area immediately outside of the Borough - Primary school pupils visiting in self-led groups • How is the museum managed and supported on a day to day basis?

Tabled Item 8

<i>Please clearly state the final objective. Objectives might include scrutiny of process or issue, or shaping of policy option or special project.</i>	
Proposed Way Forward	It is proposed that representatives from Hampshire Cultural Trust are invited to a meeting of the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel and requested to address the Panel on the matters outlined above.
<i>How is the objective to be achieved? Options might include a report written by officers and considered by Scrutiny Panels; informal working groups; discussion with external bodies; or a combination of several tools. Thought should be given to the process to be followed once the Scrutiny Panel completes its work; a request or comment may be made to the Executive or policy options offered to Council.</i>	
Key Dates	Attendance and presentation to the Leisure and Community Scrutiny Panel at their meeting on Wednesday 6 March 2019.