

The Planning Inspectorate

COMMENTS ON CASE (Online Version)

Please note that comments about this case need to be made within the timetable. This can be found in the notification letter sent by the local planning authority or the start date letter. Comments submitted after the deadline may be considered invalid and returned to sender.

Appeal Reference: APP/A1720/C/23/3336046

DETAILS OF THE CASE

Appeal Reference	APP/A1720/C/23/3336046
Appeal By	TITCHFIELD FESTIVAL THEATRE LIMITED
Site Address	Titchfield Festival Theatre 71-73 St. Margarets Lane FAREHAM PO14 4BG

SENDER DETAILS

Name	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]

ABOUT YOUR COMMENTS

In what capacity do you wish to make representations on this case?

- Appellant
- Agent
- Interested Party / Person
- Land Owner
- Rule 6 (6)

What kind of representation are you making?

- Final Comments
- Proof of Evidence
- Statement
- Statement of Common Ground
- Interested Party/Person Correspondence
- Other

YOUR COMMENTS ON THE CASE

Dear Planning Inspectorate committee,

I am writing to you about my concerns about the possibility of Titchfield Festival Theatre being closed down. I have lived in Fareham my whole life and would like to offer an inside perspective from a local inhabitant. TFT is a brand-new state of the art facility, it is an entirely community-run arts charity (no arts council funding, no lottery funding, no grants, no support from Hampshire county council, no support from Fareham Borough council) whereas, the under-construction new arts complex will be all government funded and run. Due to TFT being entirely community-funded, this shows just how much our community and town want, value, support and care about TFT and demonstrates how much has been invested into it. There are over 8 staff members who offer workshops to over 300 people, over 100 musicians, 6000 audience members in 2023, there are 790 TFT members who are actors, musicians, singers and volunteers who regularly contribute to the community and 7,330 supporters on their mailing list, this illustrates how many people want TFT to remain open and want to continue investing into it and how much having TFT improves the morale for living in the community and therefore makes it a better place to live for all.

While I understand and truly appreciate the motivation to want to save taxpayers money and investing 17 million into the newly under construction arts centre to replace Farnham Hall and that Fareham Borough Council have put a lot of thought, time and effort into the project, I would argue that Titchfield Festival theatre is a different beast. People can visit both TFT and Fareham Hall for different theatre experiences. Both theatres together can only add to Fareham's status as one of the best places to live. Both theatres can be complimentary to each other rather than competitive, why is there this need to compete/seeing TFT as a threat? TFT isn't in competition with the new arts complex when it is finished being under construction. I would like to offer the opinion that it would be wise to keep TFT open as with the waiting time for Fareham Hall being built, there are going to be a lot of disgruntled locals who will want and need a theatre, especially the retired senior community and for families.

Before being remodelled, people were visiting both Ferneham hall and TFT, TFT was not a threat to Farnham hall then so why would it be a threat to Fareham Hall now? People can enjoy both without there being any need for comparison, there is room for both TFT and the new Fareham Hall arts complex.

I would suggest that locals may be less motivated to visit Fareham Hall if TFT is closed and Fareham Hall could lose potential visitors for its opening. Whereas, if TFT is left alone you are more likely to have people who will be interested and want to visit the new arts complex. Both theatres will be putting on different shows to each other on different days and times in the week over the months, so why is there the need to close down TFT which independently-run nurtures talent and people's careers giving them skills and experience to work in the arts industry?

There is a lot of emotional investment and ties attached to TFT and I imagine there is going to be a lot of backlash from the public who are heavily emotionally invested and attached and actively involved. This potential and I imagine growing community division/tension on the matter can all be avoided if TFT and Fareham Hall can be friends rather than rivals, togetherness rather than division and support each other which will result in a happier, more harmonious thriving local community. TFT is no skin off the taxpayer's nose being a non-profit, it is even less of a threat for Fareham Hall which is a government-run and funded.

I would like to implore you to see reason and I very much hope to hear from you soon,

Yours sincerely,

