

## 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

As a regular visitor to Titchfield Festival Theatre, and the parent to 2 children who attend their Youth Theatre, I urge the planning inspectorate to allow this appeal against the enforcement action by Fareham Borough Council.

The theatre is a wonderful asset to the local community, providing affordable access to the arts for audience and performers alike. The original theatre "house" was small and cramped, with many able bodied adults struggling to fit into the seating. While they made as many accommodations as possible, disabled access was limited by virtue of this restricted seating.

The new theatre space has been built within the boundaries of the theatre's existing premises - they have adapted an area that was used for theatre related storage and created a much more accessible environment. This greatly enhances the experience for both audience and performers.

The council have historically used concerns around parking to refuse planning permission to extend the building beyond its current footprint, yet when engaging with members of the local community on Facebook regarding the ongoing dispute, and potential solutions to the parking issue were meant with comments that "it's not just about parking".

The theatre is, admittedly, situated on a rural road, and there are genuine issues arising from irresponsible parking along the road. However, the theatre do all that they can to mitigate this - they have arranged for patrons to use parking at a nearby hotel, as well as having disabled parking on site. As a parent to 2 children, one with additional needs, I find the walk safe and easy to do. While it crosses the busy A27, there are traffic signals which ensure pedestrians can cross safely.

The fact that the theatre is not far from a main A road, and only about 5 minutes drive from the motorway highlights that this is not a quiet, secluded area unsuitable for a theatre provision - yes Titchfield is a historic village, but the theatre is situated in the very outskirts of the village, and much nearer to an industrial estate and areas of recent development than to the historic village square. There is a bus stop within easy walking distance - unfortunately bus services have been cut back so that this is not usable for evening performances, but is certainly an option for matinee performances.

The theatre is a wonder asset to the local community, and it is a shame that Fareham Borough Council have brought this action against the reorganisation of the space within its theatre building to create a more user friendly performance space from the area previously utilised for backstage storage.