



Fareham Men's Shed is a charity,
registered with the Charity
Commission as
Charity Number 1178126

When Fareham Men's Shed first started in 2016, Titchfield Festival Theatre assigned space within when nobody else had anything to offer. Without this basic amenity The Shed would not have existed. Along with many other organisations we owe The Theatre a great deal and with the demise of the Ashcroft Arts Centre that demand is bound to increase.

Currently we have 80 members, all over the age of 50, some with physical, some with mental and many with health problems. It has been proved on numerous occasions that the help and support given by the now worldwide Men's Shed Organisation, has proved extremely beneficial in cutting health problems for men. Should The Theatre be forced to raze the The Arden to the ground then Fareham Men's Shed is likely to cease to exist until alternative accomodation can be found and prepared if, in fact, such accomodation is ever available.

I am certain that if Mr. Fraser loses this case much heartache will be caused to many local residents. I do know some of the ins and outs of the historic planning applications for this site and surely the only real problem in all of this is the lack of parking and if Hampshire County Council was to allow some of the derelict land behind the building to be used as a car park then all of the problems would disappear. A facility that gives such a useful and necessary service should not be destroyed because of a possible breach of planning rules, after all, Fareham Borough Council have been aware of this development from day one and have had many, many chances to step in and stop it long before it got this far.

It does seem from an outsider's point of view that with the money that has been spent on the Ferneham Hall replacement, this does seem to smack of a method of removing any competition even though the two establishments address a totally different type of audience. Also it is such a shame that the only winners from this are the lawyers and the only losers are us, the council tax payers.

