



Scouts

1st Park Gate Sea Scouts

Dear Planning Inspectorate, with regards Reference: APP/A1720/C/23/3336046

1st Park Gate Sea Scouts have a vested interest in seeing Titchfield Festival Theatre continue to flourish, for over 7 years Titchfield Festival Theatre have provided 1st Park Gate Sea Scouts with free storage of all of our equipment, this is equivalent to the contents of a 40' container. In the commercial market this storage would cost 1st Park Gate Sea Scouts over £3500 per year, this is more than a third of our operating budget and would in turn have a significant impact on 1st Park Gate Sea Scouts ability to offer a broad range of adventurous activities to over 100 young people aged 4-18.

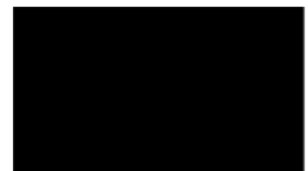
Furthermore 1st Park Gate Sea Scouts are a hutless group and we have searched extensively for our own premises, we have spoken to our local councillors on many occasions and various landowners and developers in the area, with the pressure on house building in this area no one is willing to offer the land, time or money to help charitable organisations in the Fareham area. Titchfield Festival Theatre stands out as a beacon of charity and co-operation to many small groups that are actively making a positive difference in the community and without their help the quality of life for all those affected would be significantly poorer.

It is also important to highlight the compounding benefits enjoyed by young people attending both Scouts and the Titchfield Festival Youth Theatre, Scouts is a leadership course for 4-18 year olds that provides a safe space for young people to mature and develop strong skills of team work and leadership, the Titchfield Festival Youth Theatre helps young people to develop the confidence to perform and present on stage as well as gain real world skills in a huge range of supporting roles. Many of my Scouts also attend the Titchfield Festival Youth Theatre and it is noticeable the positive difference it makes in their character development. These young people benefitting from Scouts and Titchfield Festival Youth Theatre are going to be the super stars of our future, in both community and employment, we owe it to them to give them the best experience and facilities to grow their capabilities.

With the closure of Ashcroft Arts Centre due to funding cuts and the impact of never ending budget squeeze on other community services, we desperately need to support self funding groups like Titchfield Festival Theatre that give back to their communities in so many ways.

I kindly request you to take into consideration the huge amount of good work that Titchfield Festival Theatre do in our community and how the Arden theatre in particular will help them stay on a sound financial footing that supports a broad ecosystem of charities and community groups benefiting all ages.

Yours in Scouting and Youth Work



scouts.org.uk