

In support of Titchfield Festival Theatre appeal against FBC Enforcement Order

For the attention of The Planning Inspector.

My wife and I have supported TFT ever since they started performing in the FBC area many years ago.

We regularly attend their performances in St Margarets Lane, the Barn and concerts in the grounds of Titchfield Abbey, an English Heritage site.

The quality of all their performances is outstanding and they select the auditorium that best suits individual productions.

They have increased their number of productions year on year. This benefits young people from early years to teenagers. They now have hands on opportunities to put into practice their educational studies at local colleges, into live theatre and music opportunities. These young people work with the adults of all ages. The TFT volunteers work as a theatre community to learn how to perform, build the sets, work the lighting, run the box office, provide a bar facility and work backstage to create this vibrant team.

In addition, many of the adults have, or still, perform elsewhere professionally. They bring their knowledge and expertise to the great benefit of all these TFT volunteers.

The Arden Theatre complex, with its comfortable seating, great lighting and sound, is magnificent and a crowning achievement as to what can be achieved by such a creative team. We have already attended and enjoyed three sold out performances in the Arden Theatre since it opened late last year.

Many of our friends attend the productions at TFT. Our local community is strongly in favour of supporting these special TFT volunteers and will want to continue to attend and enjoy our TFT Community Theatre.

As local residents, we are appalled at the negative attitude of our local council that has continued to put barriers in the way of TFT's vision ever since TFT moved to St Margarets Lane.

TFT has paid out £000's in legal fees defending all that FBC throw at them which comes out of the ticket income we pay.

The FBC legal fees effectively also come out of our pockets, as rate payers.

We don't like paying out twice for legal fees that should never have been incurred in the first place.

This petty bickering by FBC must stop NOW!

We urge the Planning Inspector to find in favour of TFT to allow the Arden Theatre to continue its excellent productions in the St Margarets Lane TFT complex, along with its two other smaller stages.

If the TFT appeal is not granted:

then the hundreds of TFT volunteers will be devastated.

The young will lose their mentors and the opportunity to learn skills working as a team.

We, the locals who primarily live in the Fareham Borough, will lose a venue we want to continue to support and cherish.

Yours sincerely

