

POW / MOCC Community Meeting - 28/12/24

Present

Andrew Mosley
Craig Watts
Darrell Mawle
Ben Farbrother
Emily Askey
Coleen Worrall
Jamie Norgrove

Apologies

Peter Sidwick

Minutes

Darrell - There is a calling process that can be used as part of scrutiny process. The Green Party have called it in but this has been declined as there was an issue with one of the signatures. Andrea is now calling a Judaical review.

With reference to the responses received from the council, the responses to 12G and 12H contradict each other. The loading bay and ramp is being demolished, however this is key to keeping the Prince of Wales Theatre open. The Prince of Wales is still part of the Levelling up Fund.

15% (£2 mil) of the budget goes to IHL. It's unclear if this includes the subsidy.

The group agreed that we would prefer if the Theatre to no longer be with CCDC.

Discussed Community Asset Transfer.

Craig - There is a letter that has been prepared, this was shown to the group. Craig has been involved in other similar projects, we need to decide what direction we want to take.

Craig has been on the roof, all of the mechanically equipment is on the roof (air con etc). Craig proposes that everything needs to be taken off the roof, this is where the leaks are coming from. The Fly tower can stay. It would need to be cladded as one piece over the roof.

There are issues with the heating which breaks down often. The building doesn't feel cold inside.

The seating would need to be refurbishment however it's currently adequate. The group didn't feel that the seating would be a priority.

In the Stock Condition Survey it mentioned the electrics, again this is not felt to be a priority and not essential.

A lot of hired technicians bring their own rigs. Equipment can be hired in.

A cladded roof is a must overtime.

The main issue is about the fire escape / loading bay - ramp.

We need to have a structured proposal to share with the council.

02/01/25 - Consultation ends

09/01/25 - Cabinet meeting

Discussed sending the letter and a proposal - group agreed.

Contract ends with IHL in 2027, will the contract end earlier regarding POW? Employees have been given redundancy notices. They will be giving CCDC new figures to continue to run the other venues excluding the POW.

Discussed lock in agreement, the only concern is the fire exits, there needs to be a solution to this.

Jamie and Peter have received an email from Andrew Johnson regarding the Museum he will be added to the WhatsApp group.

Discussed if capacity increase is needed as this attracts the touring groups. This wouldn't be practical at the Prince of Wales Theatre, the current offering is sufficient and this could be expanding as well as there being opportunities to increase revenue.

The footfall for the Prince of Wales has been going up year on year. Approx. 70,000 people per year. Discussed ways to increase revenue, examples of other venues and levies where given.

Discussed Prince of Wales usage, we need a list of how much it is used.

We need to complete the proposal, Ben will share this with the group, agreed to arrange a meeting to finalise the proposal.

Discussed the Legal Structure of who we want to set up the community assets, e.g. community Interest Company. This can be decided at a later date.

Next meeting 31/12/24 - 10am

ACTIONS:

- Amend the letter to include 'expect a acknowledgement and a date for a meeting to discussed the future proposals by 03/01/25' and send back to Craig
- Craig to send Letter to Council via signed for delivery
- Ben to share Proposal with group
- Add Andrew Johnson to the WhatsApp Group
- Find out what the daily overhead is for the Prince of Wales
- Find out how much the theatre is being used
- Website to go live