

Community Organisation Nomination of the Windmill Entertainment Centre Listing as an Asset of Community Value

This nomination is made 7th December 2012 jointly by the **East Beach Residents Association, 47/49 Western Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5PG** and the **Littlehampton Civic Society, 121 Bayford Road, Littlehampton, BN17 5HW** pursuant to the Localism Act (2011) and the Statute on Assets of Community Value (England) Regulation 2012, No. 2421.

1. Description of the nominated land including its boundaries

The buildings and land referred to as the Windmill Entertainment Centre, The Green, Windmill Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LM. Lands include those for buildings, appurtenances and parking. Details of the boundaries are maintained with Arun District Council.

The Windmill Entertainment Centre includes an auditorium for variety of live amateur and professional theatre programmes, plays and pantomimes and for Cinema and the arts, as well as rooms to practice performing arts and for community courses and other uses, and offices.

2. Statement of information on the Land and Buildings

Arun District Council is the registered owner of the land and buildings. The Windmill Entertainment Centre is on land given to the people of Littlehampton by the Duke of Norfolk Estate with covenants the land was to be retained in perpetuity for the enjoyment of the community. Arun District Council leases the land and buildings to Inspire Leisure, established in April 2006, to work with Arun District Council to manage the operation and development of culture, art and sport within the district. (see <http://www.inspireleisure.co.uk/about.html>).

3. Reason the land and building is of community value

The Windmill Entertainment Centre conforms to the definition of “assets of community value” as provided in the Localism Act 2011 and the supporting statutes.

The Centre furthers the cultural social wellbeing and interests of the local community. In providing for amateur Theatrical Productions, it allows youth to develop confidence and self assurance. At the same time, it is a focus for cultural provision for the wider community, including families living in Rustington, East Preston, Angmering, and other nearby areas.

The Windmill is the only Cinema in Littlehampton. It is suitable for families and people of all ages. It is uniquely accessible to the retired and elderly, who form a large demographic in our community, as well as people with special needs, including the disabled. They, and many families on low income, cannot travel to other towns in the District for entertainment due to lack of evening public transport, time and costs, or other logistic factors.

With the advent of the digital era, it is now possible to significantly expand entertainment provision in the Windmill cinema to cater to a variety of community interests, such as with live streaming of opera, ballet and other productions from the UK and world renowned venues, as well as key sporting events, music concerts and comedic performances. This can evolve over time with needs. It can boost revenue, and thus together with implemented cost efficiencies, can contribute significantly to the financial viability of the Windmill and reduce subsidy.

While the Windmill is generating substantial direct and indirect community value, the option of keeping and improving this asset (as unanimously supported by the Littlehampton Town and Rustington Parish Councils) also offers value for money from the taxpayer perspective.

Everyone knows public spending is under pressure. The local view is maintaining the Windmill is a responsible and wise use of the public money for leisure provision for Littlehampton and area residents, especially compared to alternatives of building separate theatre or cinema facilities locally, together with the many direct and indirect costs that disruption would entail.

Moreover, past investments in the Windmill would be sacrificed and new opportunities permanently lost; among them (i) the potential to achieve a least-cost solution for culture and entertainment provision in the interest of taxpayers (ii) the many synergies from combining theatre and cinema provision under one roof, and (iii) the opportunity to empower community initiatives that enhance the quality of local culture /entertainment provision over time, and centrally enhancing the financial performance of the asset by boosting income it generates.

4. Eligibility of the nominator to make a community nomination.

Pursuant to Regulations 2012 No. 2421 under the Localism Act 2011 on the definition of voluntary community bodies both **East Beach Residents Association and the Littlehampton Civic Society** are qualified to make this nomination under Regulation 5 – (1) (c) (i)(ii).

The Constitutions of the nominating organisations indicate that they individually and collectively provide a community voice in matters concerning the social and cultural wellbeing of the area and local planning decisions that affect their Members and the wider community.

The joint nominators are voluntary community organisations. Each nominating organisation has a strong local connection in Littlehampton with memberships well in excess of the 21 members required under the terms of the statute. They form part of a network of community organisations with shared interest.

Signed:

East Beach Resident Association

Title: Chairman _____

Name: David Warne _____

Date: _____

Littlehampton Civic Society

Title: Chairman _____

Name: Diane Bayley _____

Date: _____