
From: 18 September 2025 11:53
Sent: Planning Comments (SMDC)
To: Comment Received from Public Access
Subject:

Categories:

Application Reference No. : SMD/2025/0312 Site Address: The Foxlowe Market Place Leek Staffordshire ST13 6AD
Leek Comments by: Denise Wheat Town ClerkLeek Town Council

From:

Leek Town Council
15 Stockwell Street
Staffordshire Moorlands
Leek
Staffordshire
ST13 6DH

Phone:

Email:

Submission: Support

Comments: Dear Planning Officers,

At a meeting of Leek Town Council Planning Committee on Tuesday 2nd September, the Council resolved to support this application at The Foxlowe Arts Centre.

The Town Council welcome this exciting initiative which will significantly improve the facility in Leek for Performing Arts. The Foxlowe Committee have demonstrated over the past years their commitment to their vision, and they have proved that the current venue can be a success with full list of events through out the year.

The extension would enable a new wave of opportunity for economic and creative growth in Leek, providing employment, volunteering opportunities and personal performance opportunities for individuals and groups which will improve social cohesion and creative development pathways for artists and performers.

Renewable Energy:

The Council would like to see full use in these plans for solar energy to be installed on the roof spaces and for renewable ground heat pumps to be installed so that the design is also as innovative as it can be on sustainable energy.

Parking:

The Town Council would like to see the garden preserved as it has a significant impact on community groups using that outdoor space. Parking on the site should only be for people with disabilities and for deliveries.

There are a number of public car parks in the vicinity of the proposed development which are all within 5 minutes walk of the venue. There is an opportunity for a park and ride service which could run from Vicarage Road Car Park for big events where the venue may be full to capacity.

Public transport needs to be factored in to planning to make sure towns and villages in the Staffordshire Moorlands can access events happening in Leek as currently night access is non-existent for surrounding rural village residents. The Foxlowe Arts Centre could use the Parish Assembly network at Staffs Moorlands District Council to get all villages in the Moorlands involved to reach a wider audience. This would in turn help prevent social isolation in rural villages

The Venue will have a significant impact on the night time economy in the Town and will open up more opportunities for a Cultural Quarter with restaurants, art galleries and other tourist based shops.

The Town Council fully support this application

Yours sincerely

Denise Wheat

Town Clerk

on behalf of Leek Town Council

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