



TCAT QUESTIONNAIRE 2018: A NEW THEATRE FOR TIVERTON - BACKGROUND

Hello! You may already be aware that there is a project underway to build a new theatre on the new Tiverton High School site as part of the relocation of the school away from the high-risk floodplain. Space has already been allocated on the new site for this development. Established in 2010, 'TCAT' is a registered charity and has developed a close working relationship with Tiverton High School using the school hall as a venue for a wide ranging, good quality professional arts and entertainments programme, with an emphasis on excellent theatre, of benefit to the school pupils and the wider community of Mid-Devon. We and the school have invested in the hall to make it an effective and pleasant public venue which is now very well supported by the local community. We have operated without public subsidy and in most years have generated a small surplus to re-invest in the theatre. TCAT is a voluntary organisation and this is the model we intend to transfer to the new theatre.

Using our own funds, we have already commissioned a scoping report from leading theatre architects Foster Wilson Architects and experienced arts development consultants Brian Harris and Chris Moore. We now require a detailed architectural and operational feasibility study and have raised funds for this through Mid-Devon District Council and local Trusts. The Detailed Feasibility study will provide

- More detailed local market information and analysis
- Details of new potential users
- Details of the potential programme development
- Analysis of future education use and other uses by people of all ages
- Analysis of competitors and potential partners
- A capital funding plan

This will lead to: a detailed business case and operational business plan for the new theatre; an architectural scheme to RIBA stage 1/plus which provides a development brief; an analysis of the site and a design concept, with a preliminary cost plan for the building.

All of this will provide us with more certain ways forward and will support the applications to national bodies and funders for the capital funds to build and equip the new theatre. At this early stage, we want to hear from **you**. The following questionnaire is designed to tell us about your organisation, what you do, what you think about this proposal and in which ways the project might be valuable to you. We are also asking you to confirm that you are happy for us to share your information with our consultants and project team, and for some or all your information to be included in a public document at the end of the consultancy. You may have completed a questionnaire about this project before (about 3.5 years ago): if so, thank you, and please now help us update.

If you decide to participate in this important consultation, you can either: print off this document, complete by hand and return the hard copy document by post to the address at the end of this document or to Tiverton Library; or, go to www.tivertontheatre.com and complete a questionnaire online, then email your response to yourvoice@tivertontheatre.com ; or, if you prefer, you can go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TivertonTheatre2018>

and complete and return your response there. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

Julian Morgan, Chair, Tiverton Community Arts Theatre (TCAT), info@tivertontheatre.com

A. ABOUT YOU/YOUR ORGANISATION

1 Organisation name (CONTINUE ANY ANSWER ON EXTRA SHEETS IF YOU WISH)

2 Contact email and address

3 Contact telephone number(s)

4 A brief description of what you do

5 The approximate number of people involved (these might be members, audiences attending, users and so on – please specify)

6 Where you usually meet/work as an organisation (if appropriate)

7 How much you pay to use a space or venue (if appropriate)

8 How many times in a year your organisation pays to use a space or venue (if appropriate)

B. TCAT – THE THEATRE BUILDING AT TIVERTON HIGH SCHOOL

9 Have you used TCAT at any point in the past? Please indicate how many times and for what purposes

10 If you have never used TCAT, is there a reason or are there reasons for this?

The project is intended to have a direct and positive impact on young people and others in Devon: the new theatre, like the present venue, could be used for appropriate aspects of school and college curricula, providing hands-on experience of a working theatre for young people, for productions, showcase performances, specific professional programmes aimed at young people in and out of school, professional high quality performances in all art forms for the general public and the possibility of a special relationship with a professional theatre company which, as part of their programme, would offer theatre workshops. All the programmes will be offered at as low a cost as possible and concessions will be offered where possible in recognition of local levels of low income people and families.

At the present stage of the project it is proposed that the new building should be created on the following bases

- A flexible theatre space
- A 'theatrical' atmosphere, probably created in part by the inclusion of a first floor balcony on three sides of the performance space
- A flexible seating system allowing for end-on, thrust and traverse layouts as well as cabaret, standing and non-performance layouts (when the seating is retracted or removed) on a flat floor
- Good quality acoustics for theatre, but also suited to both amplified and small-scale, unamplified music
- Good quality technical installations with flexible sound, lighting and projection equipment (including the recycling of some equipment from the existing hall)
- Flooring that is suitable for dance and dance workshops (e.g. sprung or semi-sprung on a permanent or roll-out basis)

- Access for people with disabilities throughout, including the lighting and sound positions, but not necessarily including audience access to the balcony; induction loop or infra-red systems for the hard of hearing
- Dressing rooms (male and female) that are fully equipped with toilets and showers. These will provide for child protection requirements when in use for mixed adult/children activities
- A green room or similar
- Easy access from backstage areas to other accommodation in the School buildings (e.g. for temporary use as over-spill dressing rooms for big productions)
- Generous foyer space with a box office and a bar counter of sufficient size to serve the full theatre audience capacity effectively
- Small scale catering provision to accommodate pre-ordered food and drinks around shows, with secure storage for stock (the school catering operation could be considered for larger catering requirements)
- Access from the foyer and backstage to a good-sized community studio space (shared with school), which can be used for rehearsals, exhibitions, public meetings, private hires and so on
- Public toilets to meet current entertainment licensing standards, including accessible toilets and baby change facilities
- Provision for exhibitions (2D and 3D) in the foyer areas
- Direct vehicular access to the backstage area for ease of “get-in” for productions, together with adjacent setting up and storage space backstage for visiting productions and the storage of stock equipment (lights, drapes, rostra, access equipment and so on)
- General storage, including high security storage both front of house and backstage
- Office accommodation for up to 3 staff, plus 2 workstations for TCAT and visiting/resident companies/artists
- Physical separation of the theatre facilities from the school, to allow daytime use, without access to the rest of the school

There is already in place a strong base on which to build the future operation of the new theatre. The new theatre will allow and support

- The growth and development of TCAT’s existing programme of theatre, comedy, music and dance: in particular, the further expansion of professional drama programmes
- Use by the school for curriculum-based work, especially the performing arts course, giving pupils hands-on experience of all aspects of a working, professional theatre and opportunities for performance
- Access for local amateur organisations to a new theatre, and not just for ‘special occasions’
- Showcases and productions by other performing arts partners, as appropriate
- Further developing TCAT’s positive relations with a number of the professional theatre companies whose productions have been programmed into the present hall. One or more of these companies might operate as a company in residence, preparing shows and giving first performances in the theatre and then touring with the theatre’s name attached. This will also allow for shows to be created specifically for Tiverton (or based around other local events)

- The development of a specific summer season or festival to tie in with the tourism season, perhaps in partnership with others in the tourism industry
- The operation of a cinema club with a possible extension into live relay events (dependent on the arrangements in place with existing cinemas)
- Use for larger meetings and smaller conferences in sectors including public service, local business and regional organisations
- Use for other social and community events for individuals (such as weddings) and organisations (such as local consultations)

The future business plan for the theatre will build on the current track record and aim to establish the project on the basis of not needing on-going public subsidy. The plan will look to raise funds from a wide range of sources, public and private, for specific projects and aspects of the programme.

11 Do you support the proposals/project in general? Please comment briefly

12 Would you/your organisation use the new facilities?

13 What do you think the audience capacity of the new venue should be?

14 What dressing room facilities would you like to see (how many rooms, what size/ accommodating how many people)?

15 Which areas of the building or facilities might be of particular interest to you?

16 What would you use those areas or facilities for?

17 How often might you use those areas or facilities each year?

18 What cost to use these areas would seem reasonable to you? (please specify whether costs are per session, per hour, per week etc)

19 Are there other facilities or options that would make the development more attractive to your organisation? Please explain

20 Are there any ways in which you/your organisation could assist with future project development? Please summarise

C: IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please tick this box if you are happy for TCAT to keep this information and to share it with our consultants and project team

Please tick this box if you are happy for your information to be shared in a public document, and/or indicate (just below) which information we should keep in confidence

Please sign and date and include your role title (if appropriate) within your organisation

Sign

Date

My Role Title (if appropriate)

Remember, if you decide to participate in this important consultation, you can print off this document, complete by hand and return the hard copy document to Tiverton Library, or by post to

Julian Morgan (Chair), Tiverton Community Arts Theatre (TCAT), c/o Tiverton High School, Bolham Road, Tiverton, Devon EX16 6SQ

Or, you can go to www.tivertontheatre.com and complete a questionnaire online, then email your response to yourvoice@tivertontheatre.com ; Or, you could go to <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TivertonTheatre2018> and complete and return your response there.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL RESPONSES SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY
APRIL 9TH 2018 AT THE LATEST: MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD!**

For further questions or clarification, please email info@tivertontheatre.com

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

TCAT, March 2018