

Arts organisations invited to discuss new arts centre

Three key organisations in Bishop's Stortford – East Herts Council, Bishop's Stortford Town Council and Rhodes Birthplace Trust – have signed a document agreeing to progress on plans for a new arts centre for the town.

The Heads of Terms document sets out a framework on how the partnership will work towards the relocation of the arts activities from the Rhodes Arts Centre onto the Old River Lane Site. You can read it at www.eastherts.gov.uk/oldriverlane - scroll down to the bottom of the page for the link to the pdf.

All arts and cultural organisations in Bishop's Stortford are invited to read the document and then send a representative to a meeting next month to discuss the ideas and to set up a New Arts Centre Consultation Group.

The meeting is on Tuesday March 20 in Bishop's Stortford from 7-9pm. To register your interest please email OldRiverLane@eastherts.gov.uk by lunchtime on Friday March 9.

The new arts centre will be based on the Old River Lane site which is being developed by East Herts Council and its partners in a scheme to rejuvenate that part of the town.

It could include:

- A 500-seat auditorium
- Studio space
- Meeting rooms
- 3-4 screen cinema
- A new home for the town library
- One-stop shop for public services
- Hot desking space
- Café/bar.

More...

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Executive member for health and wellbeing Eric Buckmaster said: “The arts centre is a fantastic opportunity to provide a superb cultural facility for residents. Before the partnership proceeds further we want to hear from groups and organisations in the town about what they’d like to see in the new centre.”

Bishop's Stortford Town Council leader John Wyllie said: “This is an exciting time for the arts in Bishop's Stortford. By relocating the Bishop's Stortford theatre from the current site to a larger more central venue, we will see a much needed increase in the arts facilities within the town, which will benefit both the residents and local businesses alike.”

Deirdre Glasgow, chairman of trustees at Rhodes Birthplace Trust, said: “The Rhodes Birthplace trustees are working with East Herts Council and Bishop’s Stortford Town Council on this exciting opportunity to relocate the Rhodes Arts Centre to a new and bigger site at Old River Lane. After 55 years of arts and cultural activities at the South Road Complex, this could be the next stage for the improvement of this provision in Bishop’s Stortford and surrounding areas.

“The arts are alive and thriving at the Bishop’s Stortford Museum and Arts Complex and continue to be well supported by the growing community. With this in mind and as the project develops, the trustees, staff and volunteers will continue to support current and new users of the complex as well as working with the community in the future development of this new proposed arts centre.”

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