



20<sup>th</sup> August 2009

Grant Audley-Miller  
Planning Services  
Vale of White Horse District Council  
Abbey House,  
Abbey Close,  
Abingdon,  
Oxfordshire  
OX14 3JN

Dear Mr. Audley-Miller,

I understand that the Vale are not aware of our plans to develop a significant and iconic performance venue in Faringdon, which surprises me as it was the project that received the most votes in the Faringdon Health-Check. This is outlined in the Action Plan for Faringdon 2008 -2012: both PDF copies and Paper copies have been sent to the Vale. The plan may be viewed on <http://www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk/faringdon-area-project>. Reference to the plan was also briefly mentioned in my letter of 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2009 which asked for the Vales input into the proposals

An outline plan is shown on <http://www.focusonfaringdon.co.uk/> ([Plans for a Performance Venue for Faringdon](#))

The plan may be integrated with the development of an underpass or bridge over the A420 and will connect to the school (see letter 23<sup>rd</sup> July)).

In a meeting with Faringdon Community College we learned that a performance venue for the college is not likely even to be considered until 2015 and it will take years there-after to actually create a venue with a capacity for only 300.

The engineering faculty has expressed an interest in becoming involved with the project. The students will have real and ongoing input to the design and subsequent construction of the project. The facility will then be available for major school productions – and less exotic events such as assemblies: it will be available to the college in Shrivenham – who need but do not have a venue of this size: it will be available to the artistic skaters in Faringdon who are bidding for Olympic success. Dee England recently wrote *“Hi Just to say interested in knowin g for about performing arts centre and the future use for artistic skating. During 2008 cost of our hall hire were £10,565 This year to date we have paid centre £6,350. Would be good if we could have bigger floor for same costings. Also the Federation are looking for future venue for British championships and venue for GB squad training”* and it will be available to the musicians and performers in Faringdon who have a desire to perform at noise levels higher than permitted in the middle of Town.

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An additional need for a venue of this type was made clear when, earlier in the year, we were asked to host the Market Towns Annual Awards. However, there is not a venue in the Vale large enough to accommodate their requirements so we lost a prestigious opportunity to promote Faringdon and the other Market Towns in the Vale.

The purpose of this letter is, again, to gauge the opinion of the Planning Department to these proposals. We would obviously like your/the council's input into these proposals as we are quite sure that you will have a level of knowledge on such matters that will assist us drive this project forward more quickly, and around (rather than over!) some of those pitfalls that we would very much like to avoid.

You will appreciate my concern that I was advised yesterday that the Vale had no knowledge of Faringdon's plans in this respect.

I am not sure what more we can do to draw the Vale's attention to the Town's plans: your advice in this respect will also be appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Nick Elwell  
Managing Director