

Information for the Regeneration and Development Panel relating to Item 10 on the Agenda for 30th July 2019 – Guildhall Workshop session

In 2018 the Panel established an Informal Working Group to look at opportunities for the Guildhall. The Informal Working Group suggested the following, which officers have noted. Therefore at the Workshop session Members may like to explore options and come up with ideas which have not previously been identified.

Suggestions for the Guildhall

- Flat floor was essential to provide maximum flexibility.
- Flexible staging so that it could be moved to the centre etc.
- New lift and stair access.
- Address building fabric, including roof.
- Improvements to the acoustics and orchestra pit.
- Improve access to the stage
- Air conditioning/improved ventilation.

Suggestions for the White Barn

- Multiplex cinema was considered, but this is now proposed to be installed into the Corn Exchange.
- Indoor soft play area and/or use of garden as an outdoor play area.
- Access available from the Quay to an outdoor play area.
- Potential for street food and pop up restaurants in courtyard space.
- Creative Hub or info café on ground floor with residential on the first floor.

Suggestions for the Shakespeare Barn

- Potential indoor play area
- Gallery Space
- Restaurant/Café or coffee shop.
- Retail space
- Creative Hub
- Theatre school space and training.
- Kitchen could be extended so that it could cater for events at the Guildhall.
- Improve access so that it could be accessed directly from Kings Street via an upgraded courtyard.
- Glazed extension in the courtyard
- Additional toilet provision.

Suggestions for the Fermoy Gallery

- Retain as a gallery space with improvements to security and environmental controls to encourage better exhibitions and collections.
- Restaurants and retail
- Office space

Suggestions for the Red Barn

- Connection to activities on the rest of the site.

- Studio space/workshop areas and retail. Space for rent. Dark Room for photography.
- Commercial area to support activities on the rest of the site.

General suggestions for the site

- Increase food and drink offer. Could include special events, incorporate live music etc. Traditional fish and chips.
- Catering on the site to serve the Guildhall was important if the Guildhall was to be used commercially, for example weddings and conferences.
- Make the site pedestrian only access
- Links with the Library
- Links with the Ferry
- Look at links with Nelson and marketing opportunities under this brand, for example memorabilia and exhibitions.