

## Item 11

### Impact of Residential Development on Aelfgar School Site

#### **Background**

The Rose Theatre Car Park has 28 spaces of which 24 are for use by theatre goers and 4 are allocated to the YMCA staff. Whilst the car park is sometimes empty or partially filled during the day but when we have events and bookings in the evenings and at weekends, the car park is full and overflowing.

The Almshouses on Taylors Lane have been given parking passes to use the CCDC Taylors Lane Car Park. There are 6 passes for this site for the owners and their guests. These passes expired 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

Development of housing is due to start soon on the former Aelfgar School site. This will include the land currently allocated at the CCDC car park on Taylors Lane. CCDC and SCC are looking for alternative parking facilities for the residents and their visitors which will be required 24 hours a day / 7 days per week and have approached the town council to see if we can give 6 spaces to the residents of the Almshouses for the foreseeable future – this would reduce the Rose Theatre car park down to 18 spaces. The spaces would be needed until such a time that the housing development has been completed and allocated parking included in that development.

This matter was taken to the Rose Theatre Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023 where the committee felt that the allocation of 6 spaces to the Almshouses would be to the detriment of the viability of the theatre as reduced parking may result in fewer bookings.

#### **Correspondence**

We have received correspondence from / had meetings with the following, each requesting the allocation of 6 spaces for the residents:

CCDC Housing Strategy and Service Improvement Team  
SCC Cllrs Sutherland and Kruskonjic  
Email from CCDC Cllr Lyons  
One member of public

We have received the attached correspondence from the following users of the Rose Theatre, concerned that their future at the theatre may be in jeopardy should the parking allocation be restricted:

Rugeley Musical Theatre Company  
Theatrics  
Art Class  
Creative Performance Academy

#### **For Consideration**

Councillors to consider the request for the 6 parking spaces.

**Extract from a letter received via email from Rugeley Musical Theatre Company:**

*To whom it may concern, first of all can I thank you for your continued support for allowing us to both rehearse and perform in the Rugeley Rose Theatre and the flexibility you've allowed us in putting on high quality productions. Both pre and post covid we've been able to average annual attendances of over 1000 audience members a year and it's fantastic to continue to be able to do this in our hometown with a local, community focused venue. I want to also extend my sincere thanks to Laurie and the theatre staff who have been very accommodating with us, particularly with room rotation and bookings - it's been a massive help!*

...

*Theatre Parking*

*I am aware from previous council meetings that there is a concern about the reduced amount of parking at the theatre and the surrounding areas, due to both the future removal of the car park by the old squash court and for potentially residents occupying some of the car parking space as a temporary measure, which I understand has been requested by Cannock Chase District Council. We would like to add our concerns.*

*For a usual rehearsal, we average between 20 – 30 members with anything between 15 – 20+ cars. Although tight, this isn't as much of an issue and can work around, however we do hold a concern for show weeks. I know we can park around the back, but for many shows we sell 100+ tickets. Add in our volunteers and theatre staff and it becomes very limited! We just wanted to ask what the current plans or arrangements are in place the event of overflow parking when the squash court car park will no longer be in use?*

*We're a bit worried that the potential distance for parking (the market car park?) could potentially put people off attending not only our shows but all productions at the theatre. We completely appreciate this may be beyond your control but we wanted to echo with our concerns for the limited space.*

*If it would be any help at all and you wanted us to provide a reference as a regular user of the theatre space to amplify your concerns, we'd be more than happy to so. Equally, if you need any more information from us or any way we can help please give us a shout!*

*Many thanks*

*Rugeley Musical Theatre Company*

## Theatre

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 March 2023 09:53  
**To:** Theatre  
**Subject:** Car park reduction

[REDACTED]

It has come to my notice that the Taylor's lane car park has been sold and a request for additional car park spaces at the Rose Theatre carpark. Should this happen and the existing car park be reduced, the members of the Rugeley Art Society would have difficulty on parking to the Theatre. We have around 18 to 26 attendees and many of them are old and infirm including some from a local home and attend with their carers. We have been in existence for nearly 8 years and welcome anyone from the community.

However, should the car park be refused I feel that the members of RAS would find it difficult to attend our Monday meetings.

I hope that you will give very careful consideration to this Mail as I and the members of RAS would hate to lose a superb venue for the community and an active social art group meeting

Yours sincerely [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



CREATIVE PERFORMANCE ACADEMY

Ewart House, Etchinghill, Rugeley, Staffs, WS16 2LG

creativeperformanceacademy@gmail.com

07920-095-245

<https://creativeperformances.yolasite.com/>

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Taylors Lane Carpark**

It has come to my attention that the car parking facilities at the Rugeley Rose Theatre may be compromised.

This is a big concern to me as a regular customer of the Theatre.

Car parking spaces are required each week for my students who attend weekly rehearsals every Thursday and also for regular shows that we hold.

Taking away these car parking spaces could not only negatively effect my business but could also impact my students, especially those who have disabilities. I have a student who is blind and others who have learning difficulties and close parking is essential for them.

I would ask that you re-consider your thoughts on this matter and take into consideration the loyal patrons of our local theatre.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Principal Creative Performance Academy



To: Rugeley Town Council  
From: [REDACTED] Theatrics Stage School  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023

**Re: Car Parking at the Rugeley Rose Theatre**

Dear Sirs,

It has been brought to our attention that due to the Taylors Lane car park being closed for building work, this may change the number of car parking spaces at the Theatre if places are to be reserved.

We hire the theatre space over five weekends per year for our shows, and have been doing so for many years now. We usually have up to 60 students per show which means that there are many families in cars coming to the venue to watch their children in our shows. Parking is already at a premium, but one of the reasons the Rugeley Rose suits us so well, is the amount of available free car parking we can offer our audience. With the Taylors Lane car park closing (which we usually advertise at alternate parking on show days) this will impact our parents greatly.

We would appreciate your consideration in keeping the current car park spaces for the Theatres use, as it is also a selling point for companies and organisations like ours when hiring local venues.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Principal 

[REDACTED]