



Here's the latest campaign news –

- The East Street development and Objections raised.
- Urgent requests for your continuing campaign. Please help.
- FTA AGM date (17 May) postponed until the future of the East Street plans is more certain!

East Street development

On this whole development, Waverley Borough Council record a staggering, 4,066 objections to the scheme with only 18 in support and 3 expressing neither view.

Demolition of the Redgrave

But more pertinent to FTA are the latest numbers objecting to the Demolition of the Redgrave Theatre: **2,013** objections, with only 3 in support and 1 expressing neither view.
(Data correct at 22 April 08)

Numbers continue to rise

The numbers of Objectors to the loss of the theatre continues to rise and we know that more are coming in, so *thank you* if you have already responded, but if you haven't already sent in a letter please ***do so now***. Our target was 2,000 and we've now exceeded that but as the officer will write his report at the end of April, we still have an opportunity to increase this number to build the case. Also, letters of objection will still be received up to the date of the Planning Meeting scheduled for 28 May.

We've made it as easy for you to demonstrate your support by attaching a draft letter at the end of this newsletter. Just print it off, add your details and send. Now, it's urgent. You may well have family, friends or colleagues who will support our cause, so why not send this newsletter on to them and simply ask them to complete and send an objection letter. Thank you again! **Remember, every letter counts!**

Another area for your attention

'Calling in' Planning Applications – Urgent action please

This is very important and your help could be vital. There is strong concern that Waverley Borough Council is not the appropriate body to consider planning applications for the East Street Development. They are of course the Local Planning Authority and will deal with the vast majority of applications sent in for permission for new buildings and alteration of older properties.

But at East Street, the council is the major landowner with a considerable financial interest in the development. We believe existing councillors have participated in debates and decisions concerning the existing contract and masterplan and the Council cannot reconcile a substantial conflict of interest if they have to decide whether to go ahead with the scheme.

Recommendations come from Council planning officers, some of whom have oversight in the management of council properties and many councillors will be on the Planning Committee with some on the principal financial committees and of course the full council.

No reasonable council can make the planning decisions when it has such a vested interest in the outcome. The required objectivity must be found in an independent planning inspector.

So please write in now to request that the Secretary of State makes an order under section 77 so that the East Street planning applications are 'called in' and that she orders an independent inquiry. Remarks of national or regional concerns supporting your request must be included as the Secretary of State is not inclined to make many such orders. We have listed below some potential areas to which your letter can refer.

We believe there is a strong case and your letters will help our arguments to get this development under closer scrutiny. **Write without delay to:**

**The Planning Director
Government Office for the South East
Bridge House
1, Walnut Tree Close
Guildford
Surrey, GU1 4GA**

Potential topics that you can refer to in your letter are:

- The overall impact of a development of this size on a small historic market town.
- The potential impact of the development, taken into account with all other residential developments, of increased visitor numbers on the Sites of Special Scientific Interest Special Protection Areas at Bourley Wood and Long Valley.
- The great increase in traffic and pollution as a consequence of the immediate building programme and longer term effects on the three A Roads which cross the town.
- Flood risk. Part of the residential development lies within the flood plain of the River Wey.
- Housing needs issue (the development intends more flats but proven demand is rising for houses not small flats)
- Demolition of the Redgrave Theatre, without replacement. The catchment area of this regional theatre would extend into N.E.Hants, Berks, Surrey and NW Sussex.
- Waverley does not listen to the public's clearly articulated needs and has ignored over 4,000 objections to previous plans because the theatre is not being replaced.
- The conflict of interest between WBC being both the landlord and planning authority. Waverley has an overriding financial concern in the outcome of the planning decisions.

For your diaries –

1. An ELOS (Environment and Leisure Overview Scrutiny) meeting 28 April at WBC offices, Godalming at 7.00pm
2. East Street Briefing for Councillors at WBC, Godalming 14 May (details to be announced).
3. Joint Planning Committee meet to decide East Street Plans at WBC, Godalming (details to be announced).

Take these opportunities for public attendance to show your concern
Come along and support your FTA in these key meetings.

**MAKE SURE YOU VISIT OUR NEW
WEBSITE www.farnhamtheatre.co.uk**

FTA : cooperstudio@mac.com 01252 716 394 : 4, Nutshell Lane, Upper Hale, Farnham, GU90HG

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OBJECTION

to the proposed demolition of the
REDGRAVE THEATRE, FARNHAM

THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL, THE BURYS, GODALMING GU9 1HR

With reference to the current planning applications:
WA/2008/0279 (mixed use redevelopment) and WA/2008/0280 (Listed building consent) for the demolition of the Redgrave Theatre within the redevelopment proposals for East Street, Farnham.

Dear Sir,

Please register my personal objections to the above applications.
I endorse the following reasons for refusal* -

THE REDGRAVE THEATRE, with its superb auditorium and supporting facilities, is a precious community asset designed to serve young and old. Its removal would constitute a major cultural loss to the local community and the surrounding population.

Purpose-built to a design which set new standards for other new theatres, the Redgrave is of national, historic and architectural interest.

The proposals represent an over-development of the site and do not justify the removal of this fine theatre for which there is an established future need.

A viable plan for the revival and future use of the Redgrave is in place.

The above applications contravene Local Plan Policies CF1, LT1, HE1, HE4 and TC1

**please delete points not agreed with and add your own comments below and overleaf -*

SIGNED.....Date.....APRIL 2008

PRINT NAME.....

House /Street.....

TOWN.....POST CODE.....

