

Notes of a meeting held on 23rd August 2019 between the owner of Ryde Theatre and representatives of RTC Planning Committee regarding the future of Ryde Theatre.

Present:

Cllr Diana Conyers (Chair of Planning) (DC)
Cllr Michael Lilley (Deputy Chair of planning and Mayor) (ML)
Mr Ken Gladdis (Owner of Ryde Theatre) (KG)
Mr Chris Simmons (representative of the empty buildings group) (CS)
Mr Chris Turvey (note taker) (CT)

Cllr Conyers (DC) opened the meeting by informing those present that CS had recently given a presentation to the RTC planning committee in which he stated that 5million + was available for historic buildings under threat such as the Ryde Theatre. The money was, however, only available to community groups and not to private individuals.

Ken Gladdis (KG) stated that he no longer had the desire to develop the building and was looking for a purchaser who would keep the building for community use and not try to change any part of it for residential occupation. He further stated that he did not want to see the building split up.

Cllr Lilley (ML) stated that community groups can raise funds for this sort of project which private individuals do not have access to.

KG then stated that he would rather see a community group with access to funding take it on rather than a private individual however there would be covenants placed on the sale stating that there would be no change of use from its present use class.

CS stated that if no community group came forward it would be sold privately with no such covenants.

CT asked CS whether he was an agent for the owner and he assured the meeting that he was just a conduit to the owner and his role was just as a representative for the empty buildings group.

KG asked whether RTC were interested in purchasing the Theatre.

CT reminded the RTC representatives that the purpose of the meeting, as directed at the previous planning meeting, was to ascertain the owners plans for the future of the building not RTC's

ML suggested that purchasing the Theatre was an option that RTC may consider.

CS stated that KG would prefer RTC to take the lead on any future negotiations on the Theatre wherever they may lead. This may include a community group as purchaser with RTC support.

ML stated that the record of this discussion would be taken to back to Full Council.

KG asked whether any discussions would be confidential

DC stated that the details of any future negotiations could be confidential until they are finalised.

KG stated that he was not the owner but was acting on behalf of the owner Phantom Productions.

The meeting closed