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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Bognor Regis residents and businesses welcome plans to rejuvenate Alexandra Theatre**

## **Public consultation shows strong support for plans put forward by Arun District Council and Arun Arts**

Feedback from public consultation undertaken by Arun District Council and Arun Arts has shown that the vast majority of those who engaged support the proposals to rejuvenate Alexandra Theatre.

The consultation ran from 8<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> April and included a community consultation day on 17<sup>th</sup> March at the Regis Centre, which was attended by over 300 people across the day.

When asked 'to what extent do you support the principle of rejuvenating the site?', 94% of respondents who completed a feedback form said they 'supported' or 'tended to support', with 78% indicating 'support'.

Similarly, when asked, 'to what extent do you support the indicative design of the proposal?', 83% of the same respondents said they 'supported' or 'tended to support', with 58% indicating 'support'.

On the sustainability measures proposed as part of the rejuvenation project, such as solar panels on the roof and ground source heat pump, 87% of the respondents said they 'supported' or 'tended to support', with 64% expressing outright support.

Neil Taylor, Regeneration Lead at Arun District Council, said, "We are really pleased that so many local people took the time to participate in our consultation and visit us at our community conversation event. To see such a strong level of support for our plans, with many residents wanting the improvements to happen as soon as possible, is really encouraging and gives us confidence to move forward."

Hazel Latus, Director of Arun Arts, said, "We are delighted that our local community in Bognor has so strongly endorsed Arun Arts and our plans for the theatre through this consultation. We are particularly pleased that 93% of those who left feedback felt that the rejuvenation of the Alexandra Theatre was important to them to help deliver a wider provision of arts, entertainment and community programmes across Bognor Regis."

The council, in partnership with Arun Arts, will be progressing the detailed design of the rejuvenation project. We will be undertaking further engagement with our residents and the business community in the town in the coming weeks and submitting a planning application in early summer 2023.

### Notes for editors

- A newsletter was issued on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 to 597 households and businesses in Bognor Regis, to launch the consultation and invite recipients to the 17<sup>th</sup> March community conversation event.
- Over 300 attendees visited the community conversation day and participated in the consultation.
- The consultation ran until Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and 55 feedback forms were received by the consultation deadline. The responses to the four key questions are as follows:

<b>1. To what extent do you support the principle of rejuvenating the site to provide a wide range of benefits for the local community?</b>		
<b>Description</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Oppose	0	0
Tend to Oppose	0	0
Undecided	2	4%
Tend to Support	9	16%
<b>Support</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>78%</b>
Blank	1	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	

**2. How important is the rejuvenation of the theatre to provide a wider provision of arts, entertainment and community programmes to you?**

Description	Count	Percentage
Not Important at all	0	0
Not Important	2	4%
Undecided	0	0
Important	13	24%
<b>Very Important</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>69%</b>
Blank	2	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	

**3. To what extent do you support the proposed sustainability measures that will be adopted as part of the rejuvenated design?**

Description	Count	Percentage
Strongly Oppose	1	2%
Tend to Oppose	0	0
Undecided	4	7%
Tend to Support	13	24%
<b>Support</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>64%</b>
Blank	2	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	

87% (48/55) of respondents support the proposed sustainability measures that will be adopted as part of the rejuvenated design. 1 respondent strongly opposed the proposed sustainability measures and 6 respondents either remained undecided or left the question blank.

**4. To what extent do you support the indicative design of the proposal?**

Description	Count	Percentage
Strongly Oppose	4	7%
Tend to Oppose	0	
Undecided	5	9%
Tend to Support	12	22%
<b>Support</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>58%</b>
Blank	2	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	

Source: Consultation feedback forms returned to ADC from 8<sup>th</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

ENDS