

Hello

Thank you for your update on the next steps for the draft Local Plan. The Theatres Trust didn't have the opportunity to comment during the last consultation, therefore we provide the following comments for consideration in the next version of the draft plan.

Our comments relate to Section 5.11 Sustainable Communities and Draft Policy C7 – Rural Services

While we support the intention of this section and policy, we find that the policy does not fully reflect the supporting text (i.e. the title suggesting this policy is limited to rural services, rather than all community facilities across the borough) or the requirements of Paragraph 70 of the NPPF which states that in 'promoting healthy communities', planning decisions should 'plan positively for cultural buildings' and 'guard against the loss of cultural facilities and services.'

To make this policy 'sound', we recommend:

- the policy title is changed to 'Community and Cultural Facilities' or similar, to ensure it applies to the whole borough
- this succinct all inclusive description is used which would obviate the need to provide examples and ensure all uses in Para 70 are covered: *community and cultural facilities* provide for the health and wellbeing, social, educational, spiritual, recreational, leisure and cultural needs of the community.
- References to 'village' are expanded to 'town or village'

Regards,

Ross Anthony
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