

Re: Arts Centre Bedhampton Marketing PDM3

Chris Flint

From: Jelliffe, Chris [chris.jelliffe@hants.gov.uk]
Sent: 08 June 2012 13:57
To: chris@cfaltd.co.uk
Subject: Bedhampton Arts Centre Havant Road Havant

Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Mr Flint,

Your recent email has been forwarded to me as I dealt with the disposal of the former arts centre.

As you will know, the building is a former school, which closed in 1985 when a modern replacement was provided elsewhere. The building was subsequently used as an arts centre, run by Havant Arts Centre Company Limited which held a lease of the premises. In 2009, the activities at the building transferred to the newly formed Centre in East Street, Havant, known as The Spring Arts and Heritage Centre. The lease at Bedhampton ended on 31 August 2009 since when the building has been unused.

A local Group, known as the Bedhampton Activity and Heritage Centre Group, has been interested in using the building for some time. There was discussion with the Group and much advice given, but it failed to produce a viable business plan for its proposals. As a result, the former arts centre was marketed, through Hughes Ellard, between September and December 2011, with two bids being received. Neither bid was from a community group, the best offer being from Grand Holdings Limited which of course subsequently bought the property.

The local Group did get back in touch in February 2012 and in fact made an offer to purchase, but by then legal work on the sale to Grand Holdings was well underway and the County Council did not want to renege on the deal. In any event, there was still no viable business plan from the Group and the offer from Grand Holdings was still the best in financial terms.

I hope this helps with your discussions with Havant Planners, and I am happy to answer any specific questions should you have them.

Regards,

Chris.

Chris Jelliffe BSc (Hons) FRICS
Estates Surveyor
Property Services
Hampshire County Council

T: (01962) 848617
E: chris.jelliffe@hants.gov.uk
www.hants.gov.uk/propertyservices

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HCC Property Services, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9DS