

LYMM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Kerry Duffin
Telephone: 07741 877870
Email: clerk@lymmparishcouncil.gov.uk
Address: The Village Hall, Pepper Street
Lymm WA13 0JB



7th September 2021

Dear Professor Walshe

Proposed Lymm High School Centre for Performing Arts

Thank you for coming to Lymm Parish Council to tell us about your exciting plans for a new Performing Arts Centre proposed for the High School, use of which could be shared with the community of Lymm.

As you will be aware Lymm has a very strong record in the performing arts. Aside from the High School's excellence, rewarded by an Arts Council Gold Artsmark and the many outstanding theatrical and musical performances that Lymm residents enjoy at the High School, there is a long history of performing arts in the community.

The Lymm Festival founded in 1998 has put on many events by local and nationally or internationally recognised performers. These often sell out because of the lack of capacity in existing village venues which themselves are sub-optimal. Large enthusiastic audiences attend events in church halls, hotel event spaces and in the existing school hall. But these spaces do not do justice to the size, quality and popularity of the performances.

The urge to perform is very strong in the village, from the raucous and enormously enjoyable and very well attended traditional performances by the Rugby Club, to the heart-warming Christmas concerts put on by our four outstanding primary schools. The Rugby Club has had to resort to erecting a large marquee to accommodate their events.

There are many choirs in the village catering for singers ranging from no experience to a near professional standard. We are also fortunate to have musicians of international standard resident in the village and willing to perform locally. Before Covid, every Christmas Eve has been marked by up to 3000 carol singers gathering around Lymm Cross to see in the holiday.

There are two very long standing and successful dance schools in the village which struggle to find adequate, let alone appropriate, places to operate.

The Parish Council is proud of the wide range of performances and events that characterise the cultural life of the village. From the large and popular events such as

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The May Queen Festival, Historic Transport Day and the Dickensian Festival to more esoteric traditions such as Rush Bearing. Lymm is a village where many love to perform and even more love to watch them performing.

For all these reasons a Performing Arts Centre in the village would be very well used. High School students would be encouraged to follow in the footsteps of illustrious predecessors who have received national recognition and have performed Lymm productions nationally, such as Snowdragons, at the National Theatre. It would also stimulate the creative urge in the community even further in an appropriate setting.

The Parish Council is pleased to support this project to create an ambitious new facility to be shared by the school with the community. Please let us know how we can be of more help.

With best wishes

Bob

Cllr Robert Barr OBE
Chairman Lymm Parish Council