



INFORMAL NOTE OF THE FIRST MEETING RE CINEMA GROUP

Held in the RTC's offices on Tuesday December 8th 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Present:

John Edwards (Chairman); Denise Mason; Brian Roe (Jack Roe Cinema Services);; Barry Stevens, Youth Services officer Herefordshire County Council; Caroline Rhodes (Jonathon Preece, estate agents); Cllr. Phil Cutter; Brian Atherton; Ricky Barlow (Youth Forum); Tom Knight (Youth Forum).

Opening the meeting Cllr. Edwards explained that the Ross Town Plan (RoWToP) questionnaire and Planning for Real responses indicated a demand from Ross residents for a cinema. Some 35% of respondents to the questionnaire said they would attend a cinema at least once per month providing it showed new releases (that could be argued to be equivalent to 3,500 from the town or 9,100 from HR9). Of course, actual attendance is likely to be lower, for a variety of reasons.

Ricky Barlow reported that the Youth Forum has obtained a licence for a cinema club to show films in the Y-Zone in Hill Street and would be staging the first two presentations with the guidance of Rural Media. They were seeking a capital grant from the Youth Opportunities Fund to pay for a projector, screen and sound system. (It was subsequently confirmed that a grant of £5,400 had been obtained and the date for the first screening under the auspices of Rural Media was fixed for January 16th 2010).

It was agreed to stay in touch with a view to the Ross Sports and Leisure Federation providing any support required including help with banking facilities.

However it was noted that, initially at least, the films to be screened at the Y Zone would be confined to those suitable for under 15 year olds and the Y zone may not be the most suitable venue for an adult cinema..

Brian Roe explained that rights to show new releases are not easy to obtain with all kinds of restrictions especially for small cinemas. However he is arranging for a presentation by a distributor after the New Year. It was noted that Coleford/Cinderford cinemas are able to show some new releases, in spite of limited audiences.

Discussions around a possible location for a cinema in Ross focussed on parking and staffing. Apart from the Y Zone, it was agreed to look at the prospects for building an extension at the Larruperz Community Centre that might be used for several purposes such as a theatre, concert hall and

conference centre. This might be eligible for community centre development funds if it met certain criteria.

Apart from the Y Zone, which might be developed to house an adult cinema other possible venues mentioned were the Tudorville Youth Centre and John Kyrle High School. Caroline Rhodes said there seemed little chance of empty shop premises being available for a viable cinema project.

Brian Roe said that the presentation by a distributor will be arranged as soon as possible hopefully in January. Following that, the group will consider establishing a body such as a Cinema Club, to carry the project forward and help assess the level of genuine demand for a cinema in Ross.