

Making Space

Art is important. Artwork is all around us. We all have art in our homes, some of us have artwork on our bodies. Every aspect of life is involved with art, to at least some extent. Creative arts are consistently underfunded. Not just in Havant, but nationally, and internationally. The National Campaign for the Arts' Arts Index survey, compiled in association with the Creative Industries Federation (CIF) and King's College London, reveals that public funding for the arts per head of population fell by 35% since 2008. In 2021, the UK government approved cuts of 50% to creative arts subjects, in favour of investing in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects. This comes after the World Economic Forum repeatedly saying "Creativity" will be a vital skill for the coming decade.

Art is a way for people to express themselves. The Mental Health Foundation reports that art can be a great way for people with mental health issues to feel like part of a community, and to improve wellbeing.

This is why I am proposing that Havant Borough Council establishes a relationship with Making Space and resolves to place funding towards them for the next 5 years.

Making Space, as an organisation was established in 2002; and the building they are currently home to is in a purpose-built building right behind Park Parade. This building is owned by Hampshire County Council and on an agreed rent-free lease for 25 years (of which around 20 years remain. They have provided local people of all ages the ability to engage with the arts. From providing PO9 Foodbank users with children's activity packs throughout the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, to hosting a multi-medium exhibit based on the heritage woods the area is losing to the establishment of the Havant Water Reservoir.

Like most of us in this room, Making Space have been affected by the increase in utility bills, and even more so by the lack of funding this council is providing to them.

I think it would be a desperate travesty if this inspiring place is lost. Making Space are unique in Leigh Park, Leigh Park losing such an artistic hub would be a devastating blow. But this is the reality they are having to face unless something is done with haste.

If we are so passionate about regenerating this borough, we must focus funding towards the next generation of creatives. We must ensure that EVERY area of this borough is considered.

I am motioning that we

- A) We explore financial capabilities to use £5000 per year for the next 5 years of Havant Borough Council money to support Making Space.

AND

- B) All members to agree that we prioritise this project for a bid onto the £150 million South Western Railways funding for local communities.

Proposer:



Cllr Amy Redsell

Seconder:



Cllr Philippa Gray