



# WATFORD MUSICAL HERITAGE

[www.watfordmusicalheritage.org.uk](http://www.watfordmusicalheritage.org.uk)

Mr M. Thomas, Strategy Officer  
Watford Borough Council  
Town Hall, Hempstead Road  
Watford WD17 3EX

13<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Dear Mr Thomas

Thank you for the invitation to offer our comments on the Colosseum Report.

Please accept this email letter, a signed hard copy of which is in the post.

## **Please add to section 5.8.2**

Watford Musical Heritage (WMH) is indeed extremely interested in leasing the venue for management and operation and such an arrangement would provide a cap for the Council's expenditure and exposure to risk.

We should be particularly interested in doing so in partnership with WBC and very probably continuing operations with the WBC staff currently employed to run the venue.

This would enable the Council to pursue the options of providing better access to cultural pursuits for all sections of the community with increased opportunities for people to take part. It would facilitate access for children and young people by means of ticket concessions, educational activities, and special events and offer wider scope for programming events.

A registered charity will have opportunities to raise funds externally, from official funders, Trusts and Charities, widening the funding base and providing the framework for enthusiastic donors to support the hall and its activities.

Watford Musical Heritage will contribute to the vision of a town of which to be proud, raising the artistic profile both nationally and internationally and drawing in people from the surrounding areas.

Leasing the venue to Watford Musical Heritage would offer opportunities for local input and the flexibility to work with the Palace Theatre, and WBC itself which would help to reduce overhead costs in the areas of marketing and promotion and in the provision of much needed Box Office services. WMH offers WBC the opportunity to get rid of the problems, but retain some interest in the welfare of the hall and its events.

**Watford Musical Heritage, 28 Garston Road, Watford Herts WD25 9LB 01923 670478**

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[www.watfordmusicalheritage.org.uk](http://www.watfordmusicalheritage.org.uk) email [info@watfordmusicalheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@watfordmusicalheritage.org.uk)

Registered Office: 25B Epsom Lane South, Tadworth KT20 5TA Tel 08451 668789 Fax 01737 215676

**Please add to section 5.83**

WMH does not envisage requiring a revenue grant as high as that of the Basingstoke model, because the hall has considerable revenue potential in its own right, from recordings, lettings, banquets, shows and its multipurpose functions. Having aspirations is not disadvantageous, provided that they are pursued on a pragmatic and prudent basis and with due consideration for cost/benefit ratios.

WMH does not expect to have any problem finding suitable Board members. This hall has a distinguished history across a huge catchment area and many friends. We would wish to welcome Councillors from Watford Borough Council to the Board.

WMH would hope initially to retain the current operations staff, but even if this were not possible members of the Board have contacts, knowledge of the industry and hands-on experience of such matters and would be able to manage a smooth handover in due course.

Please do not hesitate to contact WMH if you need any further clarification or information.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Norman Tyrwhitt, Acting Chairman

Watford Musical Heritage.