
From: Maggie Cochran [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 August 2017 19:33
To: Planning Policy Internet
Subject: art facilities

I am a local artists and am actively working with other local artists to create a artists community in Gosport. I have opened my home studio for Hampshire Open Studios for the second year running, and persuaded 3 others to open theirs to encourage more people to visit the area.

Two years ago I rented a studio in Alverstoke village where I ran workshops and exhibited my work. I realised that there is a great demand for art activity in the borough. It brings people together, helps with mental health issues and builds a sense of community.

I have just completed a Fine Art degree and am looking for affordable studio space locally as I would prefer to build an artist network on this side of the water, although realise I may have to look in Portsmouth as there is more opportunity there. I recently met with the founders of Strong Island, Portsmouth and was inspired by how they had developed through a desire to build an artistic community in their hometown.

I noticed that :

"The potential is being considered for transforming the Old Grammar School (which includes the Local Studies Centre) in the High Street to become a cultural destination. Opportunities associated with the adjacent public space in Lawrence Square can also be considered. Potential use of the building could include studios for artists and creative practitioners, art gallery, retail space and café."

This would be a fantastic use of an under-utilised space. I have taught in the building and always felt there is more potential.

I would be interested in meeting with you to discuss some of my ideas for establishing an artistic community in Gosport. I think it could really help Gosport thrive and add enormous benefit to the local population.

Maggie Cochran