



Your letters . . .

THE GAIETY THEATRE : An open letter to the council

SOUTH Ayrshire Council, I am extremely disappointed that you failed to advise me with the date or supply me with a copy of the advertisement that appeared in the newspaper.

Despite your promises it is clear from the failure to advise me of the above information that you do not consider the Pavilion Theatre Glasgow a suitable candidate and I must say that throughout this whole matter which has dragged on for over a year now neither you or the previous council staff have been helpful or even courteous.

Your failure to supply even the simplest of Heath and safety information and technical reports on the Gaiety is a disgrace.

It seems perhaps that I have asked too many awkward questions which it seems you cannot answer. I am sure

all companies who intend taking it over will require all the items requested in my previous emails.

I am amazed that public servants get away with this kind of action and it seems that they forget that it is the public that pays their wages and expenses.

Given the circumstances I see no reason that I should take the time to show interest in taking over the Gaiety as it is clear from the treatment that you have given me that any application submitted by me will be given no consideration whatsoever.

As you stated in your last email it is time for "openness, transparency and public probity" perhaps these words will come back to haunt you.

I have heard recently that a number of the major English companies are considering tendering for the Gaiety which in my opinion the theatre will lose its local charm and warmth.

Ayr Gaiety is a unique little theatre where the local involvement both theatrically and the audience is extremely important.

You need to get back to the days of local groups being involved with the theatre of which there are plenty.

Companies like Borderline and others over the years have simply not been given the chance to show what they can

do and performers like Sydney Devine who still sells out four shows every year at the Pavilion (over 5500 seats) has never been asked to perform for over 10 years.

The list of local and amateur groups go on and on all I am sure waiting and willing to help keep the Gaiety open.

It is sad that this local community involvement may be lost forever.

I also bring to your attention my email of the May 26 re a panto at the Gaiety and my offer to stage this at no cost to the council.

I now find it strange that you are formally advertising for production of panto at the Citadel and actively seeking tenders for this at clearly a major cost to the council. This neither makes economical or political sense.

The Gaiety could easily be opened for a period of a few months to put on a panto, it is extremely hard to understand just why you want to spend all the public money transforming a sports hall into a theatre when you have a perfectly good theatre available.

Not to mention what happens to all the sports people who use the facility all year round when the Citadel is not available to them for four weeks of the panto.

You cannot produce a similar kind of

panto in a sports hall with no facilities.

So why should schools, pensioners groups, disabled and the people of Ayrshire do without a good quality panto?

Why should the council waste public money when there is an easy NO COST alternative available to them.

The Gaiety still belongs to the public and perhaps you and the elected Council members should wake up.

As the General Election is not that far away, I am sure that when it comes round to voting the people in South Ayrshire will remember just what you have done to the public services in and around Ayrshire especially with the Gaiety.

They will clearly vote accordingly and hopefully elect a council and officers that care for the Community. Time will tell.

Yours extremely disappointed,

IAIN GORDON

General manager of Pavilion Theatre (Glasgow).

● SEE PAGE 7 FOR THE LATEST ON THE GAIETY, PLUS SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL RESPONSE