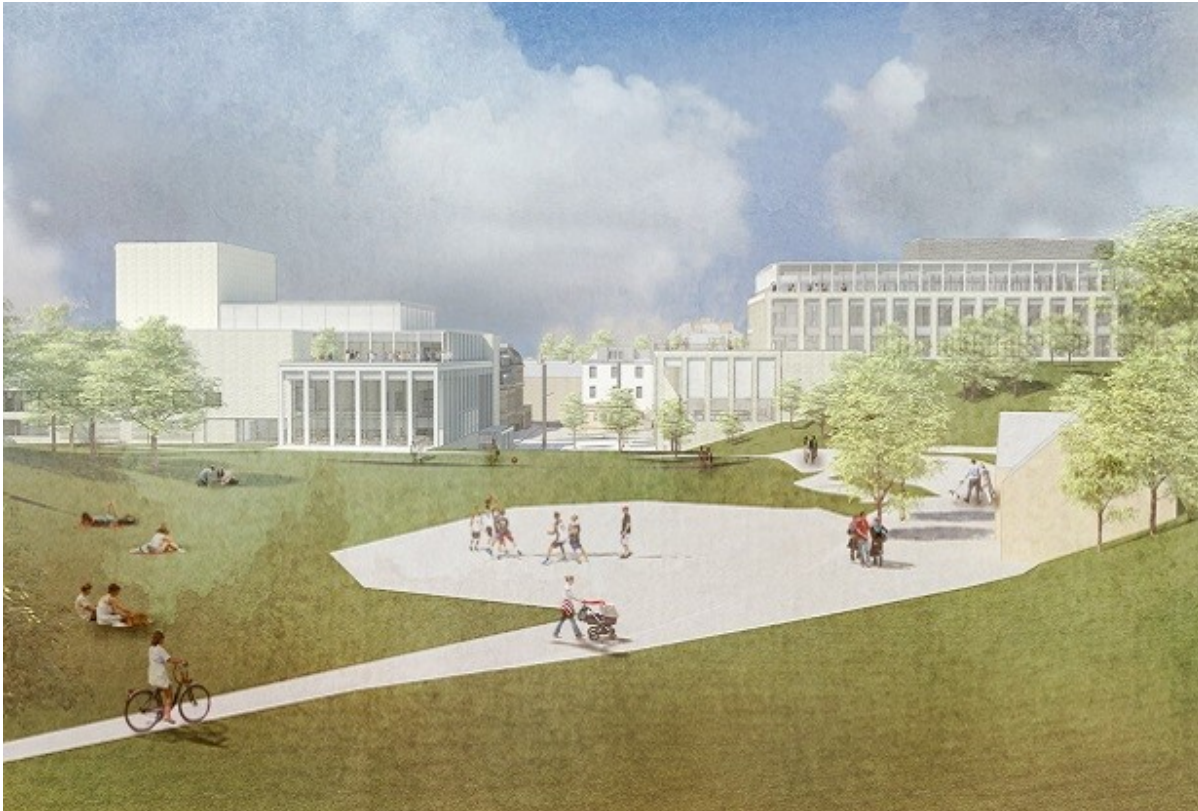


New images of Tunbridge Wells' multi-million (72) pound civic centre have been released

- 4 July 2017





COMMENT

The new website attempts to respond to "myths" and frequently asked questions (FAQs), but many of the responses to the myths or FAQs fail to fully answer the questions:

Myth 1 - Fact: Calverley Grounds will be overshadowed by the massive structures of the two proposed buildings, and 993 square metres of park, the same size as the old bowling green where the Calverley Adventure Grounds is currently being built, will be lost. Currently, the western edge of the park is a soft green boundary with trees and shrubs that lets dappled light through.

Myth 2 - Fact: The new theatre has been shrinking with each updated design and is becoming less financially viable due to reduced foyer and bar area and reduced seating when the orchestra pit is in use. The combination of less bar space and fewer seats reduces the possible income leading to an increase in subsidy required to support the theatre.

Myth 3 - Fact: Businesses in the area around the main railway station will be impacted by the loss of the Great Hall car park during the construction of the new civic buildings. Most visitors do not walk from Crescent Road car park or the other car parks at the top of town, and Torrington car park is badly signposted for visitors to town and disliked because of its tight corners on the ramps.

Myth 4 - Fact: No new users have been found for the current Town Hall and Assembly Hall Theatre buildings. The council say these buildings are too expensive to redevelop, so why should others redevelop them when any development is restricted by the Listed status? This suggests they could be without a use for some time and become a new "grot spot" in town. The most likely use for the buildings, due to the high returns, would be conversion to residential use which would be wholly unsuitable for such a central location in Tunbridge Wells in the civic block and next to the exciting Cultural & Learning Hub (library, museum and adult education buildings) that will be completed in a few years' time.

Myth 5 - Fact: I agree that the cinema site and Dunorlan are not practical sites.

Myth 6 - Fact: I agree that everyone living within a 30 to 40 minute journey from Tunbridge Wells would benefit from having a better theatre, if they are theatre goers.

Nicholas Pope Friends of Calverley Grounds (chairman)

The £72million facilities next to Calverley Grounds could be open by early 2022 and are part of a masterplan which involves the council leaving the Town Hall.

A new civic centre, which will include a council chamber, flexible spaces and facilities for weddings, will be built along with offices for private lease in Mount Pleasant Avenue.

And next door a 1,200-seat theatre will be built on the council's Great Hall car park, replacing the Assembly Hall Theatre a few minutes' walk away.

<http://www.kentlive.news/new-images-of-tunbridge-wells-multi-million-pound-civic-centre-have-been-released/story-30423936-detail/story.html#2T0oiWqFG2FbVo07.99>

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PREVIOUS ARTICLE

<http://www.kentlive.news/this-is-the-first-glimpse-at-the-70-million/story-30085130-detail/story.html>

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