

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion

To: Councillors Lomas

Date: Thursday, 12 December 2024

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: West Offices - Station Rise, York YO1 6GA

The Agenda for the above meeting was published on 14 December 2024. The attached additional documents are now available for the following agenda item:

5. Applications for Community Right to Bid (Pages 1 - 18) under the Localism Act 2011

Written representations in respect of b) The Victoria Vaults Public House, 47-49 Nunnery Lane, York. An application has been received from the Campaign for Real Ale Ltd (York Branch).

This agenda supplement was published on 10 December 2024.

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Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion on Thursday 12 December 2024

Written representations for Agenda Item 5 - Applications for Community Right to Bid under the Localism Act 2011 b) The Victoria Vaults Public House, 47-49 Nunnery Lane, York.

Vinyl Eddie written representation 3 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

We have operated our independent vinyl record store in York for over 10 years, also promoting and financing vinyl pressings for local bands, in support of the York music scene.

In late 2017 we partnered with the Victoria Vaults when it was changing from a pub that put on live music, to a dedicated live venue. We financed the purchase of the PA system and, two years later, the first phase of internal structural changes to increase the capacity and improve the soundproofing of the venue. It is probably fair to say that the Vaults has survived despite, rather than because of, its' management since just before the pandemic; a testament to it's potential.

It is a tight, atmospheric place, well suited to the rock, ska and punk music that appeals to working people in the city, rather than just visitors. It is very much a people's venue with no political pretensions and has always been well placed to function as a daytime hub for the local community, in addition to its' main modus operandi.

John and I were saddened and surprised when its' probable sale for development emerged in recent days. Grassroots music venues are an endangered species and as they close; local musicians find it harder to get work and develop their craft. York is not well blessed with them at present and losing the vaults would create a real cultural deficit. Townhouses that will probably become holiday lets are not what the city now urgently needs in our view.

We urge City of York Council to help stop any change of use for this building and support the application to register it as an asset of community value. We know that the vast majority of our customers and the wider music scene support this view. Thereafter, we would actively support any efforts to get the Vaults onto a more stable footing for the benefit of live music and the wider community going forward.

Ashley Corbett written representation 3 December 2024

Hi Angela,

My names Ashley Corbett, I own a local guesthouse and have been a regular attendee of the York Vaults (Victoria Vaults) for quite a few years now. It would be a massive shame to see this place closed and knocked down for houses/flats. I feel it's been mis managed over the last couple of years, and would benefit greatly from getting the right people involved. I have seen the place thriving before this, and know what an asset this place is and could be, moving forward for the local community.

I was involved 18 months ago with a consortium to take the place on, a deal was verbally agreed, but the present lease holder u turned as we were about to sign.

We had many great ideas involving the local community during the day time, with it being a thriving community music venue on an evening. It would be a massive loss for York, as over the last few years we have lost Fibbers, The Dutchess, and the Roman Bath is on the brink of being turned into a sports bar.

Yours sincerely Ashley

Bob Jackson written representation 4 December 2024

Hi Angela,

As a lifelong lover of music, and an integral part of the York music scene for over 45 years, I'm very saddened to hear about the demise of yet another York music venue. I was part of the campaign that got the Barbican built all those years ago, and I believe that the Vaults needs saving. It has been around long enough now to be considered an essential part of York's community hub and, if run properly, can again be a real credit to the city. If the right things could be put in place, The Vaults could be a huge community asset for locals during the periods when it's not showing live music too. Personally, I see it as more like an Arts Centre for York, than a straight forward venue. As somebody who visited (and played) at the old arts centre on Micklegate, I'm fully aware of how much of a loss this was to the local music and arts scene.

Let's be honest here; the very last thing York (and its citizens) need right now, is another boring building, where there once was a community

cultural and music hub; a place that is close to the hearts of many York residents, including myself.

Regards Bob Jackson

Nearer the Far, The Crowmen

Zak Stone written representation 4 December 2024

After recently hearing that the York vaults is about to close I feel compelled to say it's a huge loss to the live music scene in York. There are far too few music venues in our city as it is and the closure of another is devastating to live music patrons and up and coming bands alike.
Zak.

Zak Stone Magic

Matt Keeley written representation 4 December 2024

To whom it may concern.

I have been a member of the York music scene in York for 20 odd years. I have played countless gigs at the Victoria Vaults and also been a paying participant in many other gigs and events held there. It saddens me to think that York will lose yet another venue that supports grass roots music in this already Disneyfied city. The Vaults is perhaps the last remaining gig venue that smaller bands can get a chance to play. The Fulford is now the main venue and is generally booked up with touring bands thorough the year, the other venue The Crescent is usually far too big for many of the Younger/Smaller bands to play and so the Vaults provides a cultural entry point for those starting out with their musical endeavours. After the loss of both Fibbers and the Duchess as well as the old Junction venue York is fast becoming a no hope city for anyone trying to get a foot in the door of an already over populated music scene. Do we need more townhouses? Do we really need more Air B and Bs? The York music scene has been the main part of my life and about the only reason i set foot in York anymore. The city is becoming a upmarket Blackpool with nothing of any cultural value, just Tat shops, horrible bars and coffee shops. Please consider this request to halt the loss of yet another bastion of local talent before the only game in town is a Harry Potter gin bar or whatever other nonsense is going on.

Best regards.

Matt Keeley

David Leaper written representation 4 December 2024

Dear Madam/Sir,

I have been a band manager, sound engineer and Tour Manager for over 50 years. I have lived in York all my life.

I have managed many bands in York over the years including Shed Seven for nearly 20 years. (1994 - 2013).

Cyanide in the late 70's. The Dandys and many local acts.

I believe the Victoria Vaults is a major asset for the York music scene. It has helped so many musicians to develop their talent.

To lose this venue would be catastrophic to the local music scene.

Bands and musicians so need this community venue.

I ask the City of York Council to help stop any change of use for this building and to register it as an asset of community value.

Very best regards,

David Leaper

Rebecca Patchesa written representation 4 December 2024

Dear Ms Bielby

I am writing to express my concern about the closure of the Victoria Vaults in Nunnery Lane, York. This will be a sad loss to the community. I have lived in the vicinity of the venue for 25 years and have enjoyed watching numerous bands play there. I have especially enjoyed watching young and upcoming York based talent there. I've always enjoyed various community gatherings such as Punk York which was a celebration of local people into the punk culture.

Over the past couple of years, other significant music and community venues have sadly closed in York such as Fibbers and the Duchess. Recently, the Roman Bath pub has also been transformed from a live music venue into a sports bar. The Victoria Vaults was a place where the community and local people could come together in a supportive and welcoming environment and to take this asset away from the public would be a sad state of affairs. I

Yours sincerely

Mrs Rebecca Patchesa

Simon Micklethwaite written representation 4 December 2024

Dear Sir / Madam.

I am writing with regards to the probable sale for redevelopment of The Victoria Vaults Venue on Nunnery Lane, York.

As a practicing musician and former venue manager (2005-2011) of The Basement at City Screen in York, it is troubling that another city venue is potentially vanishing. This will leave The Fulford Arms and The Crescent Community Venue as the only full-time venues serving local fans and performers, as well as providing an opportunity for York residents to appreciate touring artists from around the world. Losing the Vaults will also severely reduce the chance for local musicians to showcase and develop their craft.

Grassroots venues are a species in decline and are worthy of our attention. If City of York Council were to support the application to register The Vaults as an Asset of Community Value, thereby preventing the Change of Use status, this would be to the benefit of live music and would go a long way to protecting the future of the cultural integrity of the city.

Thank you for your concern.

Best Regards, Simon Micklethwaite

(Songwriter, guitarist and lead singer for Soma Crew since 2013)

Jericho Keys written representation 5 December 2024

Hello

My name is Jericho Keys and I am a radio presenter and producer for the BBC. As the face of BBC Music Introducing for North Yorkshire, a show that supports and promotes new artists from the county. I am incredibly disappointed and saddened to see another city venue close its doors.

York, as a city, has produced some amazing bands, who have gone on to do some phenomenal things. These opportunities, would not have

arose, without grassroots venues being available, to allow these artists to showcase their talents at the beginning of their careers. Do we really need to say anymore than, Shed 7?

My question is, as a resident based in the city walls and as someone who is in the centre of the music community, does York really need more luxury townhouses, that only the rich can afford? I think the answer is a firm no.

Our music scene is thriving but the closure of yet another venue means our city is losing its identity, as artists seek support and gigs elsewhere. I would like to firmly support the idea of The Victoria Vaults on Nunnery Lane becoming a community asset. The premises could be used for musical endeavours, but also for groups to engage in hobbies and activities, which combat loneliness and social isolation. I would ask that the council object to the plans for redevelopment and consider what the building could offer our prosperous creative music and art scene.

If we don't nurture it, we will lose it, It's as simple as that.

Regards, Keys. J.

Gary Langan written representation 5 December 2024

Please think on , about the closure of a local entrainment venue.

There is hardly anywhere left for up and coming bands.and for local York residents to have a pint and support them.

I've lived very close to this venue,all my life

Born and bread in York.

Love the building and what it stands for.

Please give it some thought , before we lose another asset we love.

Mr Gary Langan

York Music Venue Network written representation 6 December 2024

**Reference : The Victoria Vaults, Nunnery Lane, York - ACV
Nomination**

Letter in support of this cultural grassroots music venue to be recognised as an asset of community value

York Music Venue Network is a City of York Council recognised advisory group created with support from Music Venue Trust to represent, celebrate and protect the important cultural music venues across York. The network was formed in 2019 after the closure of Fibbers and the resulting threats to other local venues from various factors ranging from development and environmental issues to covid and the cost of living crisis. The network and its role was recognised and endorsed by City of York Council in December 2019 and then by the Executive as it authored the report of March 2020 “Protecting Live Music Venues & Nightclubs”. Since then the network has been involved with the Cultural Leaders Group /Cultural Forum and during Covid worked with Council to create a specific fund to specifically identify and support the amazing Grassroots Music Venues including The Victoria Vaults. We have also been fortunate to work with City of York Council and Make It York to deliver the Yorklife Festival and partner with the University of York on the Streetlife initiative which included an exhibition on the impact that live music and York’s venues have on our local communities.

Our written representation today is to support the nomination submitted by York Camra branch to recognise The Victoria Vaults as an Asset of Community Value as one of only 4 Grassroots Music Venues in the city alongside its space as an important community space on Nunnery Lane, an area which has seen the closure and development of numerous local community hospitality establishments.

The Victoria Vaults - A dedicated Grassroots Music Venue

The Victoria Vaults is a 140 capacity cultural space on Nunnery Lane which has evolved over the last 10 years from a community pub to a dedicated grassroots music venue, nationally and locally recognised as such. The venue is one of only two active 100-200 capacity venues in the City alongside The Fulford Arms and plays an important part in the regional music scene particularly recognised for it’s support of local upcoming indie bands and alternative music, as well as being a key part of the local tributes and covers scene.

Whilst there are a number of pubs in York that host live music, there are only a small number of dedicated Grassroots Music Venues which have

fixed performance and audience spaces, production equipment and programming specifically aimed at hosting bands and grassroots artists both locally and nationally. The venue underwent specific works to move the bar and increase the audience area and create a specific performance area and the loss or change of use of a cultural space like this can not be easily replaced unlike a pub that just hosts live music.

The Victoria Vaults position as a culturally significant Grassroots Music Venue has been recognised specifically by a number of organisations including but not limited to

- UK Government
- City of York Council
- Music Venue Trust
- Featured Artists Coalition
- Attitude is Everything
- CAMRA
- YMVN

City of York Council acknowledged the importance of The Victoria Vaults as a venue when in August 2021 it awarded 4 grants totalling 90K to the 4 recognised Grassroots Music Venues in York, The National Centre For Early Music, The Crescent Community Venue, The Fulford Arms and The Victoria Vaults, which received £16,000 in support alongside the statement

“The grant supports City of York Council’s standpoint that a thriving, vibrant, diverse and responsibly managed early-evening, evening and night-time offer is a crucial part of the city’s economy. It also places emphasis on the council’s commitment to live music venues in the city, recognising them as an integral part of York’s economy.”

Its position as cultural space was also recognised by the UK National Government when the venue operators were awarded a Cultural Recovery Fund grant of just under £100k, a grant which was only available to assessed cultural spaces rather than just hospitality venues.

It is also recognised as being one of only 850 Grassroots Music Venues in the UK by the charity Music Venue Trust with The Victoria Vaults being an active member of the Music Venue Alliance. In order to be recognised as such a venue must pass a number of stringent tests to be defined as a GMV.

It has also been recognised across the industry by organisations including the Featured Artists Coalition (FAC) who list it as one of the venues in the UK that doesn't charge commission, and accessibility grassroots music venue charity, Attitude is Everything.

The venue hosts over 150 cultural events annually and its small capacity is particularly important in helping support small, young, upcoming artists and local promoters on their first steps towards becoming national talents.

We are aware that the property is currently under offer and may have already transferred ownership but we are particularly concerned that the marketing materials have specifically mentioned development opportunities on the site rather than its ongoing use as a venue

“excellent medium term redevelopment opportunity, subject to planning”

Whilst no planning permission has currently been sought it is clear that there are plans to create just 3 townhouse residences whilst permanently removing this cultural asset and the community benefit that it brings to the local ward and wider city region.

We believe that City Of York Council should grant the ACV to recognise the cultural and community importance of this space and the few other spaces we have like it and that any further planning changes or alteration of use will also be opposed to help secure this property. This will allow an opportunity within the next 5 years for either the owner to continue its use as a venue or if the property is put up for resale for the local community or an operator to take on the purchase of the venue. There may also be opportunities for Community Benefit Societies such as Music Venue Properties to secure the site for long term cultural use and help with job creation and maintain the social value of the property as has been seen with venues such as The Ferret in Preston or The Bunkhouse in Swansea.

In recent years we have seen numerous important community and cultural spaces be lost to developers including Fibbers (Stonebow), The Duchess (Stonebow), Fibbers (Toft Green) Stereo (Gillygate) , New York Club, Tramlines, and Mecca Bingo with a massive loss to both the cultural offering of the city but most importantly the communities that used these spaces, for socialising, creating, entertainment and bringing people together.

In its March 2020 report “Protecting Live Music Venues & Nightclubs” the council stated 5 key statements supporting live music in York

- that there is an inherent value in bringing people together and sharing experiences;**
- that the enjoyment of music and rhythm – live or recorded – crosses all social, cultural and economic boundaries;**
- that pre-existing music venues should be supported and protected, particularly where the changing nature of the city centre, with increasing residential development, brings them into conflict with new neighbours;**
- that nightclubs and performance venues can vary significantly, but that any problems whatever their nature - should not preclude a venue from delivering greater cultural value through a different incarnation in the future;**
- that a thriving, vibrant, diverse and responsibly managed early-evening, evening and night-time offer is a crucial part of the city’s economy.**

We recognise that City of York Council has stood by these commitments in recent years with the support granted during the development challenges which have threatened venues including the concerns raised with The Roman Quarter, the support shown to The Crescent Community Venue and the ongoing support to replace the venue lost by the closure of Fibbers. If it were to not grant the Asset of Community Value status then this would be in contravention of the above statements supporting Live Music Venues in the city.

Answering Objections

We believe that any objections to the granting of an ACV for this site will focus on trying to downplay the cultural significance of the space and imply that there are an excessive number of other music hosting sites in the city. We hope that we have clearly established that The Victoria Vaults is not just another pub that has live music but rather one of a very limited number of Grassroots Music Venues in the city which could not be easily replaced and has a key place and support in the community.

They may also raise concerns over the financial viability of an operation on the site based on the views of the recent management. We do believe that an operator could be commercially successful on the site particularly if they were to take on a Community Interest Company model which has proven to be successful in a number of case studies and that an increased number of grants and development funds have become available which the previous operators were unable to access. The restrictive full repairs lease that was in place also placed excessive financial pressures on the recent operation at the site and brewery loan placed ongoing costs. The venue's potential as an independent site with lack of a beer tie could strongly support a successful and community led operation in the property in the future and interest has been expressed by numerous parties in supporting this

We believe that these are not appropriate points of objection and ask that the Asset of Community Value nomination be supported as this property clearly meets the terms for which the initial ACV policy and Localism Act was created, in particular that the property has been used by the community in the recent past and could face a realistic prospect of reuse by the community in the next five years.

We would urge City Of York Council to continue to support its ongoing commitment to culture and communities by approving the nomination of The Victoria Vaults as an Asset of Community Value and encourage its ongoing use as a grassroots music venue.

Yours Sincerely

Chris Sherrington

Co-Founder - York Music Venue Network

Elizabeth Matfin written representation 7 December 2024

Dear Mr Bielby and Mr Bradley

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed closure of the Victoria Vaults pub on Nunnery Lane and in particular, the impending loss of the venue for live music.

York has very few decent venues where bands and musicians are able to play proper gigs and The Vaults has been somewhere that so many bands and music nights have taken place over the years. I myself have

attended many amazing nights there to see live music. Most importantly it gives smaller, less known artists an opportunity to play in front of a larger crowd at an affordable price.

I imagine that I speak for many locals when we express dismay at the prospect of the venue being turned yet again into luxury flats (more expensive than most locals can afford) or they become air bnbs, student accommodation or yet another cafe or restaurant.

I understand many people in the York Music Scene have requested that the venue be registered as an “asset of community value” and I would like to add my name to this request.

Many thanks

Elizabeth Matfin

Andrew Wiles written representation 7 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was saddened to hear that the Victoria Vaults is to be closing as a performance venue.

As well as being a local architect and business owner I am a performer and promoter of original music in the town since 1996. While the band I am a founder member of have had our time in the Radio 1 spotlight we have always remained a local band, playing our original tunes to a local audience. We started our performance careers in the likes of the Bonding Warehouse, Fibbers and Spotted Cow, all of which we have outlived as they become redeveloped for better economic outcomes. They were never better social and community outcomes and people still talk about those days, sharing faded photos but not faded memories.

I love music – moreover, I love hearing new music, by artists new to me. As the fortunes of my main band ‘Percy’ have ebbed and flowed I have diversified joining other bands in the town and moving into promoting live music and even starting a fledgling record label. It has been a treat to get to know generations of new bands emerging out of college and uni and blend them in live line ups with older established bands that I know.

Grass roots music is so exciting and I am a firm believer that it is always more creatively invigorating to see 4 great original bands for £5 (or free) and put money over the bar than see a washed up ancient band for £300 on dynamic pricing. Its not about the money.

The opening of the Vaults in 2017 came at a great time as the Woolpack which we had been using for 3 or 4 years was soon to close. I have been booking the vaults every 4-6 months since then, covid permitting, mostly offering curated line-ups of original music to the enthusiastic music followers of South Bank and beyond. I say South Bank because it does really feel that this is a place treasured by the local Community, not something catering to tourist trade or Saturday night drinkers. Maybe that is why it has never made any money - but then neither do community bus routes - but they still remain essential for social cohesi

My final event promoted at the venue was just this last Friday 6th December. A free entry event with four really good local bands with performers ranging in age from their 20s to their 60s – same with the clientele. A great event, busy with a very appreciative crowd from across the city. If anything a Friday night sanctuary from the chaos of city centre party pubs. The cost of hiring the PA and giving something back to the bands was covered by passing around a hat. This is what grass roots music is about on a very basic level – a safe space where non professional performers can ‘have a go’ and a well balanced receptive crowd, keen to hear what they have to say.

You could say that the Victoria Vaults is the “Arts Centre” that York has been calling out for the last 15 years since the last one closed.

I urge City of York Council to help stop any change of use for this building and support the application to register it as an asset of community value. This would give members of the community a chance to try and set up a trust or an organisation to seek funding and grants to allow it to be the Arts Centre it could be. I know the Crescent is a similar kind of organisation but the scale of the two live rooms is radically different so there would never be competition.

In my day job as an architect working with charities and community organisations I would actively support any efforts to get the Vaults onto a more stable footing for the benefit of live music, the arts and the wider community going forward.

Andrew Wiles AABC.
Director

Michael Young written representation 8 December 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have lived in various towns and cities before finally settling in York 20 years ago. My wife and I have always enjoyed a night out to see live music and found when we first came to York the live music scene was a bit limited in terms of venues, one place we liked to frequent was The Victoria Vaults which offer a wide tapestry of different acts appealing to a wide selection of the York population.

Recently one of my children has become interested in performing and The Victoria Vaults was one of the first venues he played in, we were all saddened to hear that this was closing down but hoped that it would still be developed into another live music venue.

I am saddened to hear that it's probable sale for development emerged in recent days. Grassroots music venues are an endangered species and as they close; local musicians find it harder to get work and develop their craft. As I have already mentioned York does not have too many venues and losing this would be a real shame, especially if it is to be developed for some expensive townhouses which are out of the price range of many of the residents of the city.

We urge City of York Council to help stop any change of use for this building and support the application to register it as an asset of community value. We know that the vast majority of our customers and the wider music scene support this view. Thereafter, we would actively support any efforts to get the Vaults onto a more stable footing for the benefit of live music and the wider community going forward.

Regards

Michael Young

Dr Edward Robinson written representation 8 December 2024

Dear Sir and Madam,

As you are likely aware, The Vaults, also known as The Victoria Vaults, has been operating as a public house since 1857. As recently as 2013, there were four pubs on Nunnery Lane (The Old Ebor, The Edward VII, Trafalgar Bay, and The Vaults); two have been converted for residential use, and currently, only The Vaults remains open. As such, it stands as a part of York's slowly - or not so slowly - disappearing heritage.

Perhaps more pertinently, in recent years, The Vaults has established itself a popular live music venue, hosting a broad range of local acts, touring national acts, and tribute acts, and has invested a significant amount in improving its layout, etc., for this purpose.

Having lost a number of venues of varying sizes in recent years, with Fibbers, The Duchess, Stereo (Gillygate), and a number of others being closed for redevelopment / repurposing, York currently only has two small-capacity (under 150) grassroots venues – the Vaults and The Fulford Arms. You may have read in the last year or so that such venues are suffering a major crisis nationally. Many of these have closed due to financial pressures and simply being unable to sustain themselves: this is not the case with The Vaults, which is operating as a viable business. The closure of The Vaults is not about its failing as a business, but pure capitalist greed on the part of the property owners, who are happy to deprive the current licensees of their livelihood, but the residents of the city – and beyond – of a thriving cultural hub solely for their own short-term fiscal gain.

Not only are grassroots venues essential for up-and-coming acts as well as established acts with a smaller fanbase, as such providing the very bedrock of the music industry, they are integral to any city's culture. York prides itself on being a cultural centre, but needs to support the spaces where cultural activity takes place.

For many, live music is more than merely entertainment: there are many people who feel that gigs are safe spaces where they can come together with likeminded individuals, make new friends and connections. Live music can also provide a mental health boost which differs from other pursuits. While I speak from personal experience as a long-time gig-goer, I also speak for many of the people I speak to at live music performances.

It's important to differentiate grassroots venues from pubs which put on live music in the form of open mic nights, covers acts, solo or small acoustic ensembles, of which I am aware are abundant in York: grassroots venues such as The Vaults provide a space for bands, of all kinds, often enabling new acts to develop their skills and begin to build a fanbase. It's widely documented that the majority of major artists and festival headliners began their careers in venues such as this.

The Vaults also has the distinct benefit of its proximity to the train station, and the car park on Nunnery Lane, meaning that music fans from outside the city are able to travel when there are touring acts and tributes playing, bringing revenue into the city and thus helping to support York's economy. As such, The Vaults is more than simply 'another pub'. I do appreciate York has no shortage of pubs: it does,

however, have a very, very limited number of dedicated live music venues.

The 2011 policy statement on Assets of Community Value states, first and foremost, that 'its actual current use furthers the social wellbeing and interests of the local community', and as I have outlined above, The Vaults very much does that, and provides something only one other comparable venue in York does.

I would therefore ask that you consider granting The Vaults the status of an asset of community value, and prevent its sale for redevelopment.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Edward Robinson
Queen Victoria Street
York

Jon Prankitt written representation 8 December 2024

Good morning,

Following the next of the closure of York vaults, I would like to express my opposition for proposed chance of use .

The vaults serves a wide community of York music lovers. We have lost several grassroots venues in the last few years - Duchess, Fibbers, and this is another nail in Yorks live / original music scene. Small and upcoming band's regularly use the Vaults and its loss will leave a gap for such performers. I would ask that any decision is considered very carefully.

Many thanks
Jon Prankitt

Suzanne Francis written representation 8 December 2024

I was very disappointed to see the Victoria Vaults on Nunnery Lane close its doors last week. Since being established as a music venue I have attended numerous gigs and events at 'the Vaults' and it has become an absolutely key part of York's cultural scene.

Furthermore, I assist with a music festival and have organised full day events at the venue where funds have been raised and, additionally items collected for the homeless in York through Kitchen for Everyone (KEY).

You will not need me to tell you just how bad things are for grassroots music venues in the UK now. Larger venues are continually being bought under the ownership of large corporations as commercial exercises to increase revenue for their shareholders. Smaller bands face a continual battle to keep going and play live gigs.

Venues such as the Victoria Vaults play an absolute key role here to the local community across York. It is to the detriment of York's arts and cultural scene to see it go. My life, and many others, is enriched by live music and I'm sure that you would support this diversity in York's night time economy. A city needs individual identity and having the exact same chains as most other towns and cities across the country, while providing jobs, does not provide cultural diversity and identity. The 'Vaults' did.

On this basis, I urge you to consider registration the Victoria Vaults as an Asset of Community Value. The work can then begin on a renewed and reopened venue. It will be a travesty to the city's music and arts scene to see yet another place lost to high end housing development.

Best wishes

Suzanne

Shed Seven written representation 8 December 2024

Hello Angela, I was passed your email address , hope this is OK. I'm Tom from Shed Seven and myself and the band just wanted to lend our support to the campaign to keep the vaults open as we feel it is important for grass roots venues such as this to remain open to give up and coming bands somewhere to play.

All the best

Tom

Shed Seven

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