

The following is a summary of attendance and comments received at the Exeter Civic Society's Public Meeting to discuss the possibility of a new theatre in the centre of Exeter. The meeting was held at 6.30 on 6 Dec 2012.

Total attendees: 51

For a theatre: 36
Against a theatre: 4
Don't know: 5
Unknown: 6

21 people want to be in a working group.
16 people want to go to more meetings.
16 people have not asked to be contacted.

Further responses can be seen on the summary of the Feedback form on our website.

The following is a summary of the main points made during the open discussion:

FOR

Successful large theatre in the past
Could sale of Northcott fund theatre in central Exeter?
Could promote community spirit
Other cities have viable theatres
Would bring more trade etc. into Exeter
Evidence of wide interest e.g. from businesses
'Entertainment Area' – the original Vision plan
Could be multi-purpose
A Plymouth Drum sized theatre better than nothing
Big shows by-pass Exeter
Planned shops will be hard to make viable
Money seems to be available for other large-scale projects
Exeter has several pools
Council has not given proper thought to this option
Pool will not attract extra visitors
Top shows would bring in the money

Canterbury has a big new successful theatre

We afforded the RAMM

Could be an Arts Centre component

Drama is an increasing study/activity in schools

Exeter could be a trailblazer

N.A.T.O. can advise

A magnet attraction works

Could existing theatres manage a large theatre between them?

Theatre Royal

- built by council

- run by superb manager

Multi-purpose building would be ideal: conference etc. facilities

AGAINST

Cost

Better swimming pool badly needed

Council cannot provide funding

Lottery gives funding for sport

Cathedral has been a good theatre space in the past

Research has not been done into viability

Running costs would be prohibitive and unsustainable

Small theatre spaces would still be needed – not possible to amalgamate all

Land Securities will not be interested in development other than shops