

Council - 15th July 2021

Notice of Motion

Kursaal Comeback

The Kursaal has been part of Southend for 120 years, and in that time it has been a rich piece of the town's cultural and architectural heritage as well as being an icon of the town.

Since the bowling alley at the Kursaal closed in April 2019, a large portion of the building has been closed to the public. With the closure of the Rendezvous Casino in June 2020, the majority of the building has sat empty with Tesco Express the only tenant in the building. The first floor has never had a Tennant since its 1997 refurbishment.

The Council notes

- There is a widespread desire in the town to see the Kursaal open to and designed by the public, for the benefit of residents and visitors alike, and a concern at the possibility of the building decaying.
- Since September 2020, the local arts and community residents cooperative Concrete Culture have been investigating potential ideas for getting the Kursaal back in use and how to make the best use of it for the people of Southend.
- The public consultation run by Concrete Culture on the future of the Kursaal received over 1,100 responses from every ward in Southend. This has brought forward a surge of interest in the Kursaal and its potential uses.
- The Council owns the freehold of the Kursaal building.

The Council resolves:

- To seek to reacquire the lease of the Kursaal in order to reopen it to the public, in a way that both preserves its rich heritage and delivers the best option for local taxpayers.
- To work with Concrete Culture to explore the ideas sourced from Southend residents, and find a way to realise Concrete Culture's vision for the Kursaal, co-created and produced with Southend residents.
- To explore all possible funding options to ensure that the Kursaal has a strong and lasting future at the centre of Southend's identity.

Proposed: Cllr Matt Dent

Seconded: Cllr Helen McDonald