

Item 63  
All England Theatre Proposal

Councillors are asked to consider funding this request:

The All-England Theatre one act play festival is a national competition for all amateur groups. This includes both adult and youth teams.

We run the first round Staffordshire festival, which for many years has been held in Tamworth. After visiting the Rose Theatre in Rugeley and speaking to Laurie, we have decided to hold the Staffordshire festival at the friendly Rose theatre. The winning teams will be eligible to move through the rounds of the festival which culminates in the English Final.

We are a voluntary group and do not make a profit from the event. We try to keep the entry fees for teams as low as possible in order to allow all groups to take part. Ticket prices are low to encourage both theatre goers and those who would not normally go to the theatre or are struggling financially to attend. The performers are given complimentary tickets to watch the other performances in their session. This sharing helps the less experienced groups to increase their skills.

Over the festival weekend 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 We hope to have between 11-15 teams performing. (3 plays per session) At the end of the session a qualified adjudicator will talk about each performance and give praise and advice to the teams. Awards will be presented to winning teams in various categories on the Sunday Evening.

As this is a new venture in Rugeley we would be grateful for any financial help that the council can give to support this event. If it is successful, it could become an annual event for the town.

The average costs we need to cover are Theatre Hire (£800 approx)

Adjudicators expenses (500 approx )

Plus things like publicity, engraving etc

Our income would be £25 entry fee per team

Ticket sales £8 and £6 per session. (This would need to build up as people would need to be encouraged to attend this new venue and new event to the area.)

We understand that your resources may be stretched but we would be grateful for your help however small.

Kind regards

Sue Fortune Chairman of Central Area.