

Petitioning [Chief Executive - TWBC William Benson](#) and 1 other

Save Tunbridge Wells from the council's £70m civic complex before it's too late



Save Our Park



Tunbridge Wells Borough Council proposes to build a new theatre and council offices in and around Calverley Grounds. The plan will cost £70m+, leave the existing civic complex empty and will spoil a historic park.

The council's plans (available here <http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/business/enterprise-and-regeneration/regeneration/civic-complex-development>) are ill-conceived and expose the town to huge risks:

- 1) The new development will ***built in and around*** Calverley Grounds with considerable potential for ***overshadowing*** park users.
- 2) Cost of **£2.5m+** pa to service the debt and **£500k** pa theatre subsidy for an already cash-strapped council - are you prepared to pay ***increased council tax*** or ***cut local services*** to fund new council offices/theatre?
- 3) Result in the loss of the Great Hall and Mount Pleasant Avenue car parks with 300 spaces for the ***many years*** of construction - local businesses have expressed significant concern.
- 4) No parties have signed up to occupy the existing council offices and Assembly Hall, risking a second ***derelict site*** in the centre of town.

Sign this petition

First name

Last name

Email

United Kingdom



ME14

I'm signing because: (optional)

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Please sign this petition to force the council to consider again the alternatives. The council's own consultants put forward a plan that would provide a similar-sized theatre on the current Assembly Hall site. This would deliver all the benefits of the proposed theatre, but at a fraction of the cost (£10m for a complete renovation and £25m for something similar to that proposed for Calverley Grounds). It would also preserve precious car parking in the centre of town, link the theatre with the new cultural hub to create an exciting cultural quarter and remove the risk of creating a second "old cinema site".

Reworking and renovating the existing civic buildings would be far **greater value for money** than the current proposal with **significantly less disruption**. Sign this petition to force the council to drop its current plans and save Tunbridge Wells.

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This petition will be delivered to:

Chief Executive - TWBC
William Benson

Council Leader - TWBC
David Jukes