

Item for the Windsor Town Forum: The new Windsor Arts Centre – The Firestation. An update on Firestation Centre for Arts and Culture.

Firestation Centre for Arts and Culture

The Centre receives a grant, which is monitored on a monthly basis, by RBWM officers from Finance and Library Information Heritage and Arts. The most recent meeting was 26th January 2009. The officers can report that the Firestation can be commended for improvements to the décor, achieved at low cost.

The Centre opened in September with huge enthusiasm, good ideas & a smaller, more effectively functioning team than the previous organisation. It has been doing fairly well, and recently celebrated a sell out Christmas show. They are continually adapting their programme for profitability and have built up a significant new mailing list. Attendance at events is good despite the economic downturn. The centre is lively and active with new and old members, and the café /bar takings are good.

They have formed strong links with local schools, especially Windsor Boys School, which has specialist status for Arts, and are working with Creative Junction, who is funded through the Arts Council, to contribute to a new diploma, later in the year. The Local Authority's Chief Executive visited on 20th January, and it was busy with children and parents visiting for after school events and classes, and others using the café bar.

The officers have recently started collecting statistics relating to the new National Indicators that are required.

December statistics:

Audience.....	1,180
Participants.....	650
Total Visitors.....	3,940
Internet Unique Visitors.....	15,521