

**4, Nutshell Lane,  
Upper Hale,  
Farnham,  
Surrey.  
GU9 0HG**

The Editor,  
The Farnham Herald,  
114/115 West Street,  
Farnham,  
Surrey.  
GU9 7HL

13 February 2010

Dear Sir,

Waverley Borough Council has approved the plan in principle to transfer the council offices in South Street 'at nil value' to Farnham Town Council (Farnham Herald 12 February). So, if this transfer goes ahead, then Farnham will reclaim what is its own. We should commend the actions of our Town Councillors who have made such excellent progress in pursuing this matter with such determination.

The Council Offices were designed by Harold Falkner and built in 1903 for Farnham Urban District Council (FUDC). The building was transferred 'at nil value' in 1974 to Waverley District Council (later to become Waverley Borough Council) when it took over the assets and responsibilities of the Town Council.

One of the assets also transferred at 'nil value' to the Borough Council at the time was the Redgrave Theatre, which had been created on land at Brightwell House donated to the people of Farnham by FUDC. The theatre was built largely through public subscription and rightly should belong to the people of Farnham. Based on the retail price index from 1974 to 2009, the sum raised by public subscription is estimated to amount now to just over £2.5m.

If the Crest Nicholson development at East Street should fail for any reason, then the Farnham public should be able to have this property transferred back to them also at 'nil value'. The Farnham Theatre Association has informed Members of the Waverley Borough Council Executive and other Councillors that this is their view and expressed their hope that they would be able to work closely with the council to achieve such a transfer. A Charitable Trust set up by the Farnham Theatre Association would run the theatre and ensure that no cost would fall on the local tax payer, unlike the acquisition of the Council Offices.

Yours faithfully,

Anne Cooper (FTA Chairman)