

Spilsby's Sessions House Project



Preserving a Lincolnshire landmark of national significance by bringing people together
in a celebration of heritage, arts and community

www.thesessionshouse.org.uk

How could Spilsby's Sessions House Project support a Vital & Viable Spilsby?





Arts
Heritage &
Community
Project

Our work so far...

- Opened up the “sessions house lounge” (2018)
- More than 250 events
- Set up “Friends of the Sessions House” supporters scheme
- Two funding bids to Heritage Lottery £20K
- One bid to Architectural Heritage Fund £5K
- One bid to the Theatres Trust £5K
- Local fundraising
- Grown a local team of volunteers
- Networked and ‘skilled up’
- Instrumental in bringing Spilsby Light Night to the town
- Completed a Viability Study

**Fundraised
more than
£40,000**



Heritage
Trust
Network
Member

Viability Study

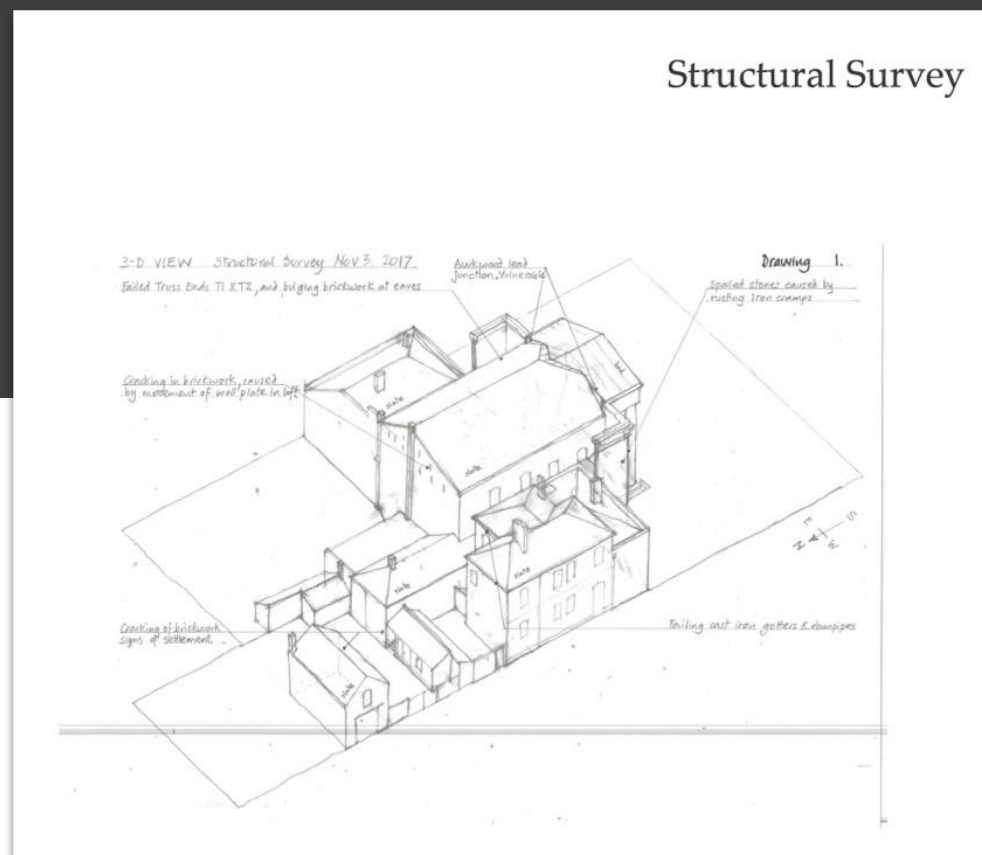
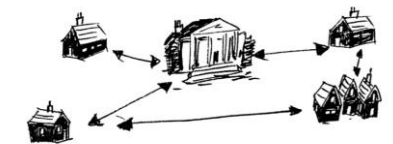
- Full conditions survey
- Full Structural Survey
- Heritage Significance Study
- Public & Stakeholder Consultation
- Options Appraisal
- Capital works costing
- Business Plan
- Final Report



Funded by



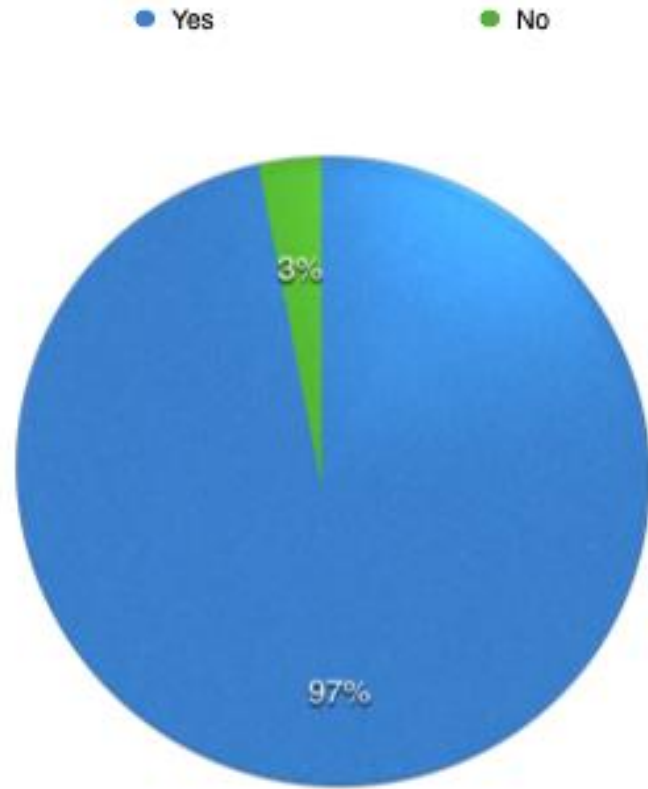
The Sessions House cic



Architectural Team:
Tim Ronalds Architects
Cambridge Architectural Research
Bristow Johnson Quantity Surveyors

Consultancy
William Culver-Dodds Cultural Consultants

Would you like the building to continue being used as a theatre?



**VIABILITY
STUDY**

What events would you attend?

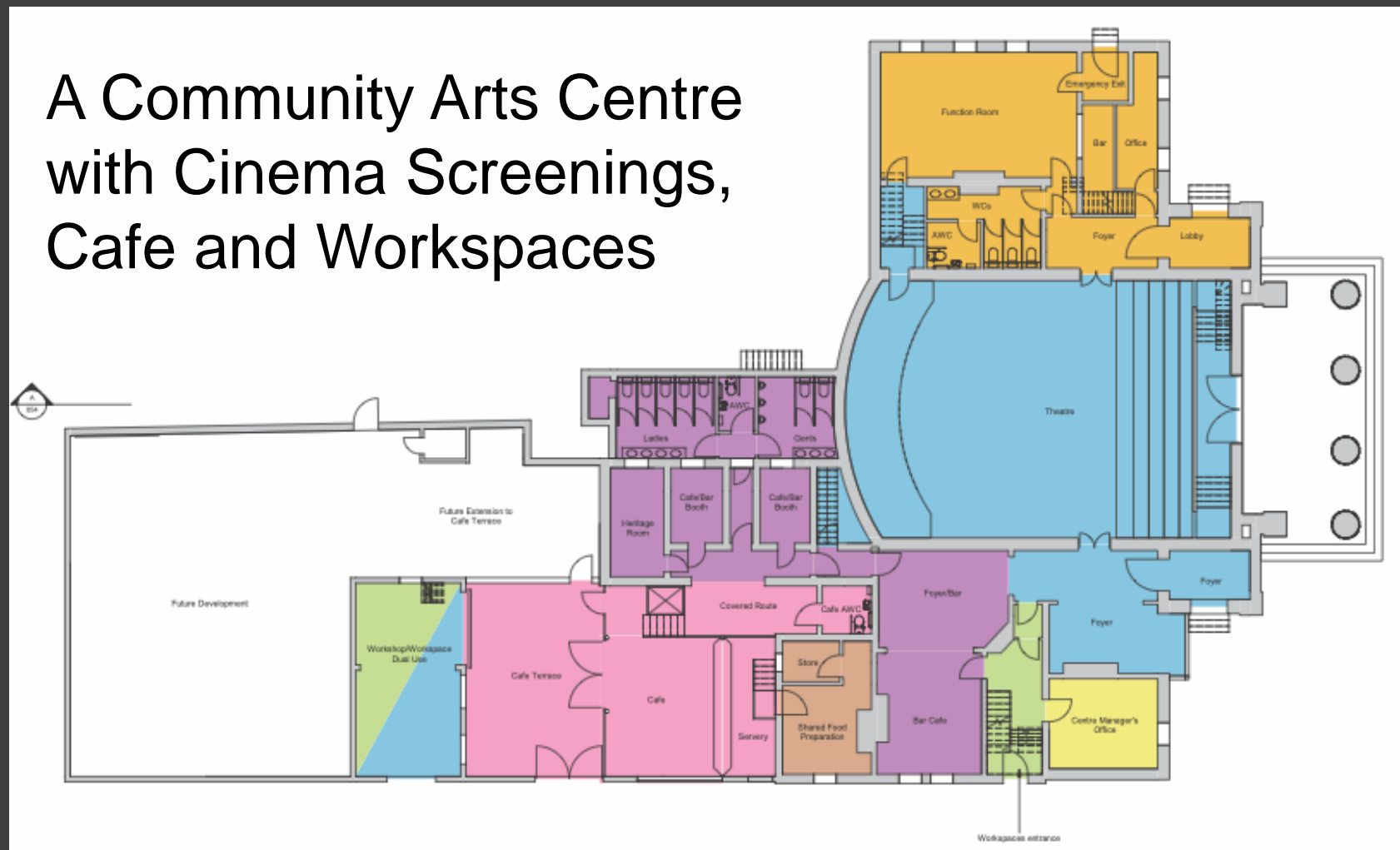
- 1. Theatre Performances 92%**
- 2. Music Events 87%**
- 3. Film Showings 78%**
- 4. Cafe 75%**
- 5. Exhibitions 67%**



A viable option ✓

**VIABILITY
STUDY**

A Community Arts Centre
with Cinema Screenings,
Cafe and Workspaces



Viable: a financially sustainable use of the building

Cost of restoration work: £3.5m (£4.2m inc VAT)

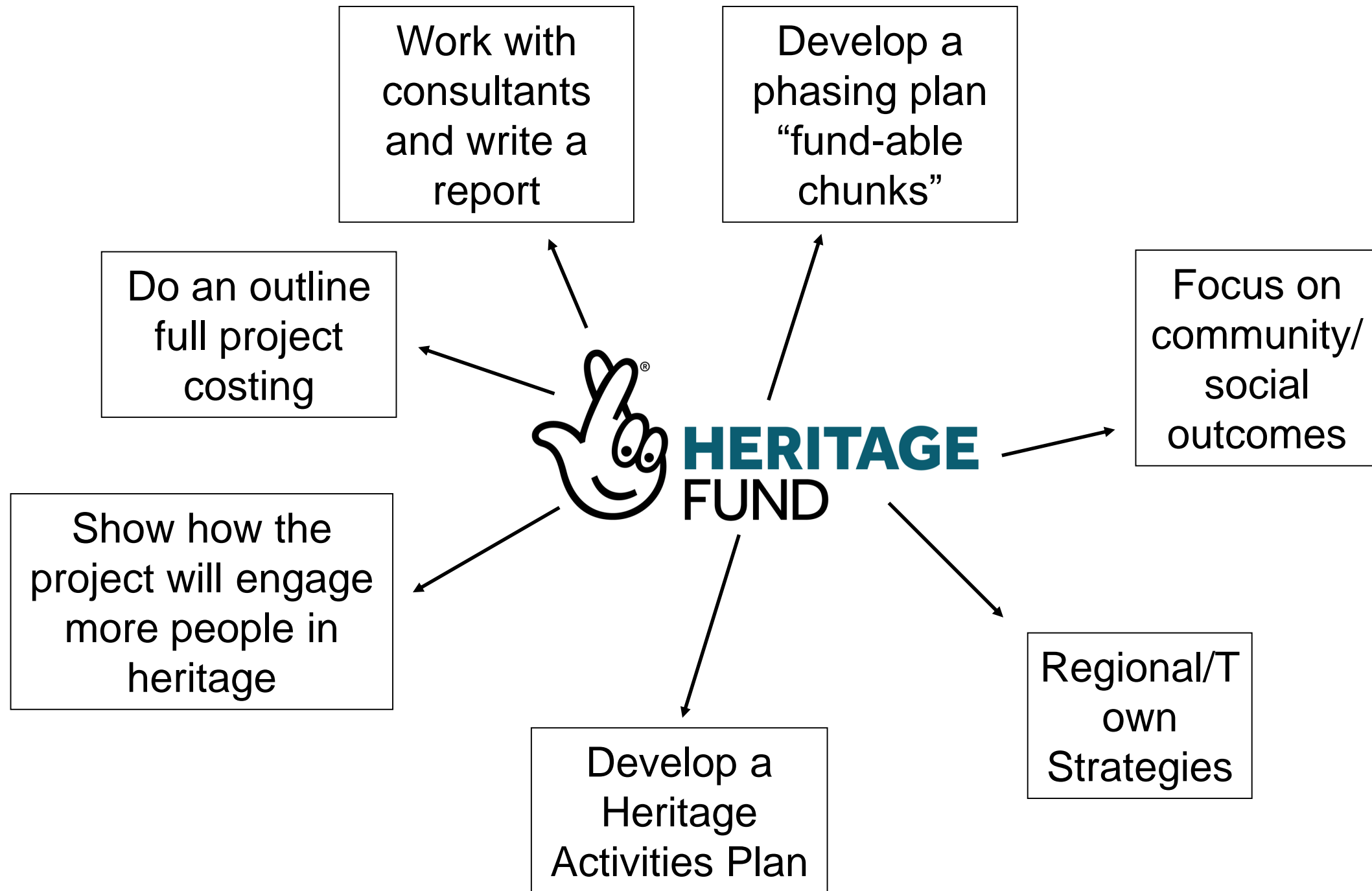


HERITAGE FUND

Central to funding the project



National Lottery Heritage Funding Advice

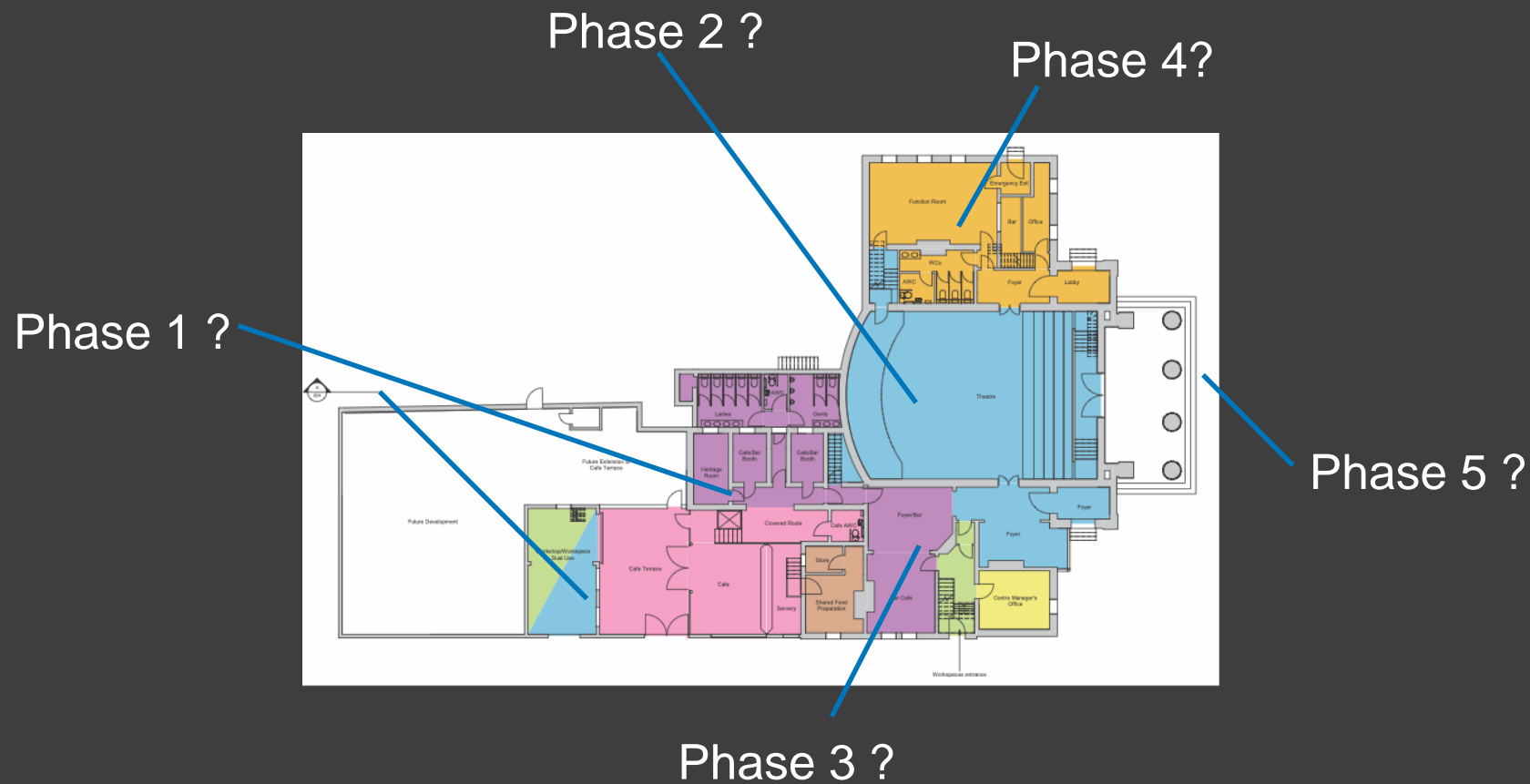


Our current work

Developing a phasing plan...

**PHASING &
Preparatory
Development
Study**

Funded by



Each phase needs to be fully costed

Construction & restoration work + heritage activities, marketing, equipment, staff etc...

Completion of study work: May 2020

Phasing the project

Each phase needs to answer:

Is it practical in terms of architectural work?

Is the cost of the phase fundable?

How will the phase be of social/community benefit?

How will it support local/regional strategic plans?

What use of space will the phase need?

How will the phase grow the organisations capacity?

What will the heritage activities be?

How do we maintain our organisations activities?



Phasing the project

Heritage activities

?

Recording oral histories

Events in the town. carnivals, parades, "heritage days"

A virtual museum. Digital projection and other tech

?

Creating a digital archive

Remaking the courtroom in cardboard

Historical Courtroom Drama

Immersive experiences. "meet the judge"

Tours of the building

Creative and interesting ways of engaging more people with heritage

Heritage Activities Projects will involve:

- Research on Spilsby's Heritage
- Research on the history of Spilsby's Sessions House
- A professional level of management and production
- Training and new skills for the organisation and the community
- Purchasing new equipment
- Developing working partnerships
- Creating volunteer roles and opportunities
- Bringing community groups and individuals together
- Engaging a broad range of people



Spilsby Light Night

2020

Saturday 7th March

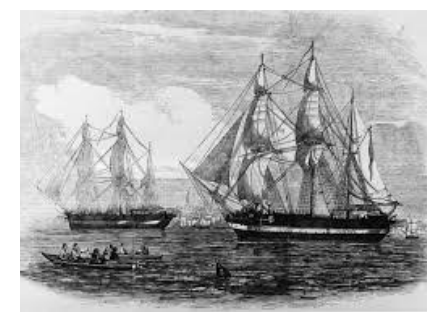
**DIFFERENT
LIGHT**

Spilsby Light Night is a Different Light event produced by Mr Holly in association with Popcorn Media & The Sessions House (Spilsby Theatre) & funded by Arts Council England



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Imagine having a funded community-arts-heritage organisation dedicated to creating events for Spilsby



Time makes things possible

How could Spilsby's Sessions House Project support a Vital & Viable Spilsby?

The phased project will:

- restore Spilsby's Grade II listed Sessions House
- enable access to Spilsby's architectural heritage
- provide a dedicated regional community arts centre
- improve Spilsby's range of community facilities
- target the needs of the community
- support local and regional strategic plans
- create a well structured community-arts-heritage organisation for Spilsby
- create employment & training opportunities
- deliver (funded) heritage-community-arts activities/events
- promote Spilsby as a place to visit
- grow Spilsby's visitor economy



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#SpilsbyStrongerTogether