

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 29 JULY 2015

PETITION – SAVE THE SOUTHERN MALTINGS, WARE – TURN IT INTO AN ARTS FOR ALL FACILITY

Darren Bender, a resident of Thundridge, has submitted a petition hosted on the change.org website, which has reached over 1000 signatures. The petition reads:

There is a desperate need for an Arts For All facility in the East Herts area and this unique building in the centre of Ware a) is perfect for the purpose as it already holds an overwhelmed existing arts centre b) has unique historical features that preserve the story of Ware's 400 year malting industry and c) was bought by the old urban council who were folded into the East Herts District Council who are now trying to sell the building to developers and d) has previously had permission from EHDC to be converted into an arts centre going back to the 70s.

We need more homes in the wider Ware area but we also need community assets like this to provide much needed activities and access to all the arts in the East Herts area. Artists' studios, workshops, classes, galleries and performance space will all be within one building. We have Melvyn Bragg's support and local people are pledging money, skills and labour so please sign the petition and help spread the word. We only have a short period of time to make this a reality. Let's put Ware at the heart of East Herts cultural life and make it an amazing place to live!

Note:

Members are reminded that the lead petitioner is permitted to address Council for up to three minutes. The relevant Executive Member will respond to the petition. There is no provision for any general debate by Members, however, local ward Members may comment if they wish.