



SHOOTING MATCH LTD

**BOGNOR REGIS
REGENERATION**

**TRANSCRIPT
PRESENTATION**

(Edited)

OF

PROPOSED PROJECT IDEAS

TO

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Nicholas Prosser

Good Evening. My name is Nicholas Prosser and I am Director of Shooting Match Ltd. To represent my freelance interests and to produce my own projects, I formed my own company called Shooting Match Ltd., which first produced London based independent screen acting training workshops and individual bespoke performer showreels. Here in Bognor, my company Shooting Match Ltd. has produced a short drama film called DELIVERY with the pupils of The Regis School, a corporate video for The Blake Project and a promotional 14 minutes film called : - ENJOY BOGNOR REGIS & THE SURROUNDING AREAS, which, so far, has enjoyed nearly 14,000 hits on You Tube.

When we were planning our promotional film ENJOY BOGNOR REGIS, of course we looked at what Bognor had to offer - the Museum, Pier amusements, skateboarding opposite the Norfolk Hotel, Mini Golf, the children's roundabout and slide by the pier, the promenade train and the Palm Reader. I am sorry to tell you that we unanimously and reluctantly concluded that, to have enough material for our film, we could not just confine ourselves just to Bognor. So, in addition, we ventured to Felpham, Aldwick, Chichester, Littlehampton, to the boating lake and Wetland Centre at Arundel, to the races, the Trundle and the Weald & Downland Museum at Goodwood, Bognor's Roman Palace, Tangmere Museum and The South Downs. But Bognor has a long history as a seaside town with traditions of attracting visitors, for the day, for the weekend or for a longer summer holiday.

So a question worth asking? WHY REGENERATION?

Why not just serve the existing population and attract new residents by building more and more new apartments and houses, even more hotels? The answer to the question surely is to properly serve the local community and also to attract the visitor to generate enterprise for the town. Because of its seaside location Bognor Regis has a distinct advantage and privilege, which many inland towns would envy. I think I asked the question to a recent Town Manager : - "If you are standing at Victoria Station, peering up at the indicator boards, trying to choose between a train to Worthing, Hove, Southsea, etc., why would you choose Bognor?" Already, I have said that as producers of Enjoy Bognor Regis, we found that there were insufficient items or attractions to fill the content of a quarter of an hour film about Bognor. So we added to the title "& the surrounding areas". If existing attractions were not enough to make our film, I wonder if Bognor's existing attractions, good though they are, would entice a considerable increase in new visitors to the town. Surely, Bognor has to have SOMETHING those competitors lack. That SOMETHING that will entice non residents to visit. I have no geographical location in mind, though, as you will hear, one of them is conceived to be adjacent to the beach.

I have 4 ideas to present to you.

My first idea is for a PERFORMANCE ACTIVITY SPACE originates from when I was on stage management for the National Theatre's Young Vic Company, when we took Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors to the Edinburgh Festival to perform to full houses for three weeks in the empty shell of the Haymarket Ice Rink. Portable seating was introduced on tiered rostra, allowing a performing space in the centre of the rink – very effective. From that experience, my proposal is to supply a flexible space that would provide a variety of activities to include a variety of performances in drama, dance, music recitals plus a venue for meetings, classes and workshops for drama, dance, music, yoga, keep fit, book clubs, debating societies, sport and so much more. What would make this venture flexible to accommodate so many different uses is that the 4 rostra supplying audience seating could be totally mobile, transported on wheels, allowing them to be tracked to various positions or completely removed into an adjacent storage dock area, leaving what is effectively a large, empty but totally flexible space. A space which could instantly be converted to become a theatre or an event base, according to individual production requirement. This facility would serve both the local community and be an attraction for visitors from far and wide. If ideas are to progress on the introduction of a new performance and activities space in Bognor, I should certainly welcome the opportunity to become actively involved. This then is the proposed idea for P.A.C. or Performance Activity Space.

Now to my idea - THE DIPPER to build a feature that stems from one of the key reasons why people visit seaside towns and that is to take a dip. My idea will link that leisure activity of bathing with the enterprising shopping and catering attractions, linked to the beach. Imagine, adjacent to the beach, with close proximity to the town centre, a dual pool experience. First, an external heated pool surrounded by sunbathing terraces with places to sit and congregate, cafes, even small shops. Then imagine, linked and connected to this external pool, a second INDOOR POOL, operational 365 days of the year, only divided from the external pool by a large transparent window of glass, providing light and sunshine. Surrounding this pool too, there would be endless possibilities of cafes, juice bars, small shops, even extending to an upper mezzanine floor overlooking the pool. This attraction would serve local residents, day visitors and holiday makers. This then the proposed idea called THE DIPPER

**And now to an idea based simply on FUN. Have you ever watched your children or grandchildren when they see any device which they think they can control, which satisfies their urge to touch, to press, to pull, to take control, because they are curious to experiment with life, wondering what will result. Even better, if when they pull that lever or press that button, they feel, hear or see SOMETHING happen to them. The ground they're standing on could shake. They could feel a strong blast of air. A water pistol might squirt a jet of water at them. A conveyor belt on which they stand could rotate, rise up or drop down to a basement. Any number of actions could be devised to provide active results from a child's pull of a lever or push of a button. This idea is just for FUN. But I suspect that children would be pleading with their parents for a return visit after being provided with an opportunity to take control, by pressing that button or pulling that lever. This then is the proposed FUN idea –
BUTTONS & LEVERS.**

And now to the last but what is certainly the most important of my proposed IDEAS. Bognor Regis is renowned as the sunniest seaside resort in the country and I hope that this is scientifically correct. If so, this is a fact to be proud of – Now, we should discover how to display and demonstrate this FACT by creating a tangible feature to match this geographical characteristic. This is what prompted me to have the idea of constructing a Climatorium as the pride and joy of Bognor Regis. Like all coastal resorts, there was an exodus in the early 1960s to the Costa del wherever in search of guaranteed sun. Since then there has been a quest for a bold innovative interesting project to attract them back and to propel us forward into an exciting and prosperous future. This project is not just any old ATTRACTION. It is not a dreary museum, where the children retreat into a corner to look at their mobile phones. I see it as an exciting experience for all age groups to entertain, inform and educate and, importantly, to demonstrate a glimpse of the future reality and the challenging opportunities that may be taken to ensure we have a future. Not to put too fine a point on it, to combat climate change may mean the survival of our children and our grand-children, effecting the future of the human species. Because I am no scientist, I am not going to provide a detailed list of the contents of this project. As we are becoming accustomed to saying these days – “THAT IS FOR THE SCIENCE.” However, I imagine it might include practical demonstrations of temperature rise, increased rainfall, the effect on crops, sea level changes and so on and I would hope that there could be a considerable degree of active visitor participation. For example, feeling the increased heat or wind to personally experience a taste of the catastrophic effects of Climate Change. If the basic idea to build such an enterprise was accepted, I would strongly suggest an association with scientists, perhaps a university department specialising in Climate Change, to advise and work with those planning and developing the project. I am confident that there would be several organisations willing to participate and contribute. I am also confident that it would be widely popular with the individual visitor, the family, the school outing and so on. Well known environmentalists could be approached such as Sir David Attenborough to provide their support. Prominent names such as his might welcome an involvement to spread the message of Climate Change. Certainly, I would imagine that he, and others like him would be interested to lend their support. We all now are aware of the importance of a human response to this Climate Crisis and one arrow in our quiver is to inform as many people as possible to prevent a potential calamity, which could, ultimately, lead to the destruction of our planet. Climate is a topical subject, discussed and portrayed in the media and, picking up a baton to illustrate and demonstrate it, might turn a few heads towards Bognor Regis. If it doesn't happen here, I suspect it will happen somewhere. I am convinced that if you the Council have the courage and resources to pick up this baton and run with it, a Climatorium would be a major worthwhile West Sussex attraction for visitors from far and wide. To convey this “gospel” of SAVE OUR PLANET is commendable and our own Climatorium project would play a major worthwhile contribution to that campaign, to inform and educate. At the same time such a project would provide an attractive, entertaining and enterprising venture for the town of Bognor Regis. This then is my proposed idea for a concept called A CLIMATORIUM.

CONCLUSION

To use a tennis analogy, I have lobbed the ball over the net to you this evening and it is now for you to play the next stroke.

For my part, I am more than happy to roll up my sleeves to become actively involved, to participate in progressing any of these proposed projects.

Indeed, in conclusion, for all of these projects

A PERFORMANCE ACTING SPACE

THE DIPPER

BOTTOMS & LEVERS

A CLIMATORIUM

I would be more than happy to participate in a constructive open minded discussion on their feasibility and potential.

Thank you for listening.