**12/06/20 -** STATEMENT ON ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTRE CLOSURE

We are very aware of the upset caused by the announcement of the closure of Henshaws Arts and Crafts Centre in Knaresborough for the foreseeable future, due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 epidemic on the charity. Even without the economic implications, the Centre would have had to remain closed for some months as we were unable to provide a safe environment for enough staff and Art Makers within the Government’s COVID-19 guidelines.

We are focusing on setting up a committee of key stakeholders, including the local authority, business, charity, parent representatives and others to develop a future vision and structure for the Centre. We will communicate what that looks like after we complete discussions with those parties. Any feedback or input is welcome through the email [ACCclosure@henshaws.org.uk](mailto:ACCclosure@henshaws.org.uk) and will be brought to the committee.  Everything we are doing is to protect the future of the Centre and the Charity. At present we have nothing further to add to the information we have provided.

Nick Marr, Chief Executive