

Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Our Ref.: RA/661

28 March 2017

Jean Marshall
Head of Planning
Development Management and Building Control
Weymouth and Portland Borough Council
Dorset DT4 8TA

Dear Ms Marshall,

Weymouth Pavilion, The Esplanade, Weymouth

Application Ref: WP/17/00218/FUL

I write regarding the above planning application for alterations and extensions to the Weymouth Pavilion. The Theatres Trust supports the application. Please see our comments below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. We champion the past, present and future of live theatre, by protecting the buildings and what goes on inside. We were established through the Theatres Trust Act 1976 'to promote the better protection of theatres' and provide statutory planning advice on theatre buildings and theatre use in England through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted by local authorities on planning applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

Comment: The Trust actively encourages theatre owners and operators to invest in their buildings and ensure they are developed in a way that will support their long term viability as a live performance venue and meet the needs and expectations of modern audiences, performers, producers, and staff. The Trust therefore supports this application to improve access, the appearance, and sustainability of the Pavilion Theatre. We understand these works are connected to a wider internal refurbishment programme, not subject to a planning application.

We welcome the new first floor extension and installation of a lift, which is essential to meet building access requirements and improve circulation around the building. We note there are limited opportunities to provide this within the existing foyer areas, and agree this is a suitable and accessible location. The lift shaft also provides an opportunity to introduce new signage to this frontage to increase the visibility of this valuable cultural asset.

We also support replacing the roof coverings and welcome the replacement of the existing windows throughout the building with new double glazed units, which will substantially improve the environmental performance of the building, and reduce operational costs.

Overall the alterations will create a more sustainable and accessible venue with enhanced

Theatres Trust

22 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0QL

T 020 7836 8591

F 020 7836 3302

E info@theatrestrust.org.uk

W theatrestrust.org.uk

Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

Trustees Nick Allott OBE, Richard Baldwin, Dara Ó Briain, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, Oliver Goodwin, Prof Gavin Henderson CBE, Jerry Katzman, Dame Penelope Keith DL, Judith Mellor OBE, Peter Roberts, Simon Ruddick, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

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amenities for both theatre users and staff. We therefore recommend granting planning permission.

This advice reflects paragraph 70 of the NPPF which provides clear guidance on the importance of safeguarding cultural facilities and states that in 'promoting healthy communities', planning decisions should 'plan positively for cultural buildings' and 'guard against the loss of cultural facilities and services'.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Anthony
Planning Adviser

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