

Protecting theatres for everyone



Our Ref.: RA/686

28 June 2017

Andrew Gregory
Development Management Team
Southampton City Council
Civic Centre
Southampton SO14 7LS

Dear Mr Gregory,

Mayflower Theatre, Commercial Road, Southampton

Application ref: 17/01054/FUL and 17/01055/LBC

I write regarding the above planning and listed building applications for a three storey side extension and linking bridge to the Mayflower Theatre. Please see our comments below.

Remit: The Theatres Trust is the national advisory public body for theatres. 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 Theatres Trust actively encourages theatres owners and operators to upgrade their venues to ensure they meet the needs and expectations of audiences, staff, performers and producers to remain competitive and viable and to be able to continue to attract the types of shows needed to sustain the theatre.

Access between the front of house and back of house areas is currently only provided externally or via the auditorium. We therefore support this proposal to create a three storey extension which will provide a much needed separate and enclosed link between these areas to improve circulation and connectivity for staff and performers around the whole complex. The proposal will make a positive contribution to the operation of the theatre and will help sustain it without affecting its special architectural and historic significance. We therefore recommend granting permission.

This advice reflects guidance in Paragraph 70 of the NPPF which states that in 'promoting healthy communities', planning decisions should '*plan positively for cultural buildings*' and ensure that such facilities '*are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community*'.

Yours sincerely,

Ross Anthony
Planning Adviser

Theatres Trust

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The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

The Theatres Trust Charitable Fund co-operates with Theatres Trust, has the same Trustees and is registered as a charity under number 274697