

# Protecting theatres for **everyone**



Our Ref.: RA/2260

2 August 2017

Beverly Booth  
Planning and Development  
Richmondshire District Council  
Richmond DL10 4JX

By email: [Planning.Enquiries@richmondshire.gov.uk](mailto:Planning.Enquiries@richmondshire.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Booth,

**The Georgian Theatre Royal, Victoria Road, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 4DW**  
Application ref: 17/000504/LBC

I write regarding the above listed building application to strengthen the fly gallery at The Georgian Theatre Royal. 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 through The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, requiring the Trust to be consulted on applications which include 'development involving any land on which there is a theatre'.

**Comment:** The Theatres Trust actively encourages theatres owners and operators to invest in their venues to ensure they meet the needs and expectations of audiences, staff, and performers as well as modern building and safety standards. We therefore support this proposal to install additional bracing to the fly gallery floor and balustrade which will reduce the pressures on the gallery to enable it to safely support the load of the lighting bars and flying system. We note the existing galleries are not original, having been installed in 2003, and this will address a clear safety and operational issue.

In our opinion, the alterations are minor and do not affect the special architectural or historic significance of this heritage asset. They will secure the safe use of the flying system and galleries and therefore the ongoing operation of the theatre, and the benefits clearly outweigh any harm caused to the historic building fabric. The Trust recommends granting listed building consent.

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 that they '*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

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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