

Our Ref.: RA/681

17 August 2017

Vicki Colwell
South Downs National Park Authority
South Downs Centre
Midhurst GU29 9DH

Dear Ms Colwell,

The Opera House, Glyndebourne, East Sussex, BN8 5UU

Application ref: SNDP/17/03609/FUL

Thank you for consulting the Theatres Trust on the above application for a replacement production hub building near the Glyndebourne Opera House. The Trust supports the application. Please see our remit and 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 Trust actively encourages theatre operators to invest in their facilities to ensure they meet current building standards and the expectations of modern audiences, staff, and performers. In this regard, we support the construction of a new replacement production hub building which will provide new workshops, rehearsal and practice space and staff facilities, as the long term success of Glyndebourne is its ongoing ability to stage and present high quality productions.

The new production hub will replace the existing workshop and rehearsal building which is now in a poor condition and no longer fit for purpose. We welcome the upgrade and the range of facilities to be provided, particularly the double height central workshop for the construction of large sets and props, though the applicant may need to consider providing a double or extra height exit from the central workshop area, or ensure the main exit will be wide enough to manoeuvre these sets and props out of the building. In addition, the usability of these spaces will largely depend on the internal sound mitigation measures incorporated in to the design, particularly between the workshops and the rehearsal rooms, and we are pleased this has been considered in the design process.

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

In terms of the external design, it is of a similar scale and massing to the adjacent Messel Building, and the choice and colour of materials and the design of the roof line suits the location and complements, not competes with the nearby theatre and listed buildings.

The application is consistent with guidance in paragraph 70 of the NPPF which highlights the importance of promoting 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'. The Trust is therefore happy to recommend granting planning permission, attaching conditions as appropriate.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ross Anthony', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Ross Anthony
Planning Adviser