

Our Ref.:3876

25 October 2017

Tina Maryan  
Planning Services  
Mid Devon District Council  
Tiverton, Devon EX16 6PP

Dear Ms Maryan,

**Tiverton High School and Arts Theatre, Bolham Road, Tiverton**  
Application Ref: 17/01323/MOUT

I write regarding the above outline planning application for the relocation and expansion of Tiverton High School, including the provision of a new Community Arts Theatre. The Theatres Trust supports the application. Please note the Trust was not consulted, as per our statutory remit. Our advice is outlined 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 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'.

**Advice:** The Theatres Trust is aware of the Tiverton Community Arts Theatre (TCAT) group's efforts over recent years to upgrade and improve the existing theatre facilities at Tiverton High School in order to support the cultural needs of the local community. However, given the identified flood risk across the existing site, the Trust welcomes and supports this outline planning application to relocate the school to new location outside the flood risk zone on the east side of Bolham Road, which will include a new purpose built theatre as part of the initial phases of the development.

While we are unable to comment on the internal layout of the theatre at this stage, and we look forward to seeing the detailed design at the next stage when the application for reserved matters is submitted, we do make the following observations about the outline proposal submitted.

We welcome the continued integration of the TCAT with the high school, which will maintain and enhance this working partnership and make effective use of the theatre facilities throughout the day for both organisations. The new facilities will continue to support and strengthen the visual and performing arts programmes offered by the school, while increasing opportunities for

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**Chair** Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

**Trustees** Richard Baldwin, David Blyth, Pam Bone, Paul Cartwright, Paddy Dillon, Ruth Eastwood, David Ian, Richard Johnston, Gary Kemp, Dara Ó Briain, Simon Ricketts, Peter Roberts, Ann Skippers, Anna Stapleton

The National Advisory Public Body for Theatres

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cultural engagement with the local community who are able to access the new and enhanced theatre.

We support locating the theatre to the front of the site where it will have a strong street frontage and presence, which is needed to improve accessibility and to promote work at the theatre and attract new audiences. We agree with the decision to give the TCAT a separate, but coordinated visual identity from the school through the architectural design and materials, and the provision of the forecourt area and connections to the school. The link to the school dining facilities is also supported, broadening the range of events that can be hosted at the theatre, in turn supporting its long term viability.

In terms of staging the development, given the interconnectivity of the theatre with the Phase 1A arts building and the Phase 3 Core Resources building, we encourage consideration of developing these buildings together at the same time. Noise and vibration from the later construction, as well as restricted access to the theatre and the loading bay while these construction sites are active will impact the operation of the theatre at a time where the organisation will have to work hard to promote its new venue. It will also be important the detailed design ensure the public and school operations are able to be clearly separated, when needed, to ensure both can function independently and unimpeded, as well as together.

Overall, this is an opportunity to create a new and important cultural asset for Tiverton and the wider District and the Theatres Trust recommends granting permission. Please contact us if we may be of further assistance and when the next detailed planning application for the theatre building is submitted.

Yours sincerely,

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

Ross Anthony  
Planning Consultant