

Our Ref.:9006088

1 November 2017

Helen Kelly
Development Services
South Tyneside Council

Dear Ms Kelly,

Jarrow Community Centre, Jarrow NE32 3QN

Application Ref: ST/0954/17/FULL

I write regarding the above planning application for the refurbishment of the Jarrow Community Centre and associated internal and external alterations. The Theatres Trust supports the application. Please see our advice 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 Trust actively encourages the owners and operators of theatres and cultural venues to invest in their buildings to ensure they meet current building, access and safety standards, and the needs and expectations of the people who use the venue and the local community. The Trust therefore supports the proposed works to modernise and refurbish the Jarrow Community Centre to make it a more inclusive and accessible community hub.

We support the external works proposed which will improve the centre's presence and appearance within the street scape and activate its street frontage. We also support creating a single integrated and more welcoming entrance for all the uses in the centre, which will greatly improve safety and wayfinding by being more prominent, transparent, and visible.

Internally, we support the alterations to the back of house areas, particularly the inclusion of a lift to allow disabled access to the stage area and the second access stair to provide a back stage crossover point. The provision of additional separate dressing rooms also meets child safety requirements for these types of venues. The applicant should consider providing a shower in the dressing room toilets and ensure that the big dressing rooms have counters / tables that can be used by / adapted for use by wheelchair users.

Theatres Trust

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Chair Tim Eyles **Director** Jon Morgan

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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 support facilities, we assume the spectator area continues to double up as the theatre bar/ front of house space, which is needed for audience to assemble before events, and that the theatre audience can also use the toilets on the top level, which are in a separate corridor and therefore can be controlled from the rest of the venue and the dance studios.

Our only concern is that there no longer appears to be a control point/ box office for the theatre level near its entrance, though the Design and Access statement notes on page 11 one is provided, but we could not locate on the plans. It is unclear if the library reception is meant to jointly provide this facility, but this should be addressed as a box office will be needed to welcome people to the venue and to control access to ticketed events.

Overall, the proposal greatly improves the centre's operational capabilities, access, and facilities and the Trust would therefore recommend granting planning permission.

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 Consultant